

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & TRAINING

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS

1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg 70, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Cranston, RI 02920

WEDNESDAY, October 16, 2013

9:30am

In attendance:

Keith Burlingame

Michael Daley

Stanley Davies

William Lepore, Jr., Chair

Robert Zuba

Frank Benell, Jr. was not in attendance with cause.

Also in attendance were Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director; John Shaw, Administrator; and Bernard Healy, DLT Legal Counsel

1.) Call to Order: William Lepore called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

2.) Minutes of the September 18, 2013 Meeting: Stanley Davies made a motion to accept the minutes to the previous meeting of September 18, 2013 as written; seconded by Robert Zuba and passed unanimously by the Board.

3.) Conflict of Interest – Legal Counsel will address the Board concerning compliance with conflict of interest requirements: Legal Counsel did not address the Board.

4.) Violation Appeal Hearings: None

5.) Review of RIGL 5-6 for consideration of legislative changes – Assistant Director, Matt Weldon to address the Board: Matt Weldon, Assistant Director for the Department of Labor and Training, addressed the Board. Mr. Weldon manages the legislative package the Department submits yearly and lobbying. Mr. Weldon informed the Board that the Department’s process regarding legislative change is a directive of the Governor’s Office being an executive branch operation. The Department submits proposals to be considered to the Governor’s Office. The Board, itself, also has the ability to submit their own legislation. Last years bill regarding “maintenance” was discussed. Mr. Weldon informs the Board of his willingness to work with the Board. Should the Board consider the route through the

Executive Office, Mr. Weldon explains that there is a process and requisite forms will be given to the Board. The possibility of change through regulations is also discussed. Mr. Weldon requests time to review the Board's recommendations. Chairperson Lepore addressed his concern that the Board represents various segments of the industry and volunteers their time; if the Board feels there should be changes in legislation, Mr. Lepore feels they should get a lot more weight than it is getting with support from the Department. Board members express concerns for the need for legislative change, housekeeping and clarity in the statute and provide examples. Mr. Weldon expressed his support of the Board and is willing to meet with the board. Discussion continued.

The possibility of changes to regulations rather than legislation is discussed. Joseph Degnan informs the Board that regulations are currently being looked at and recommends the subcommittee on legislation also look at what can be done by regulation rather than legislation. Mr. Lepore requests the entire board be involved so various viewpoints can be presented. There is discussion.

Mr. Weldon inquires if the Board would be willing to meet sooner than the scheduled once a month. Board members agreed. Board members will be notified once the Department has information for them.

There is discussion.

6.) 15 Hour Continuing Education: There is discussion of continuing education and the Building Code Commission. RIGL 5-6-20.1(c) is referenced regarding the Building Commissioner's Office. Whether legislative language correction is needed is discussed.

7.) Solar photo voltaic installations and licensing: Joseph Degnan, Assistant Director, informed the Board on recent court hearing. A full hearing is scheduled. There is discussion.

The possibility of a guidance memo, similar to the guidance memo adopted by the Board of Massachusetts on their interpretation of their law and sent to their local electrical inspectors, is discussed. It is requested to have a draft memo for the next meeting for approval.

****Mr. Lepore requests agenda items 5, 6 and 7 be kept on the agenda.**

8.) Subcommittee on Legislation for RIGL 5-6 will commence immediately following the Electrical Board meeting: All present Board members remained for the subcommittee meeting. There was brief discussion.

9.) Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Daley and seconded by Robert Zuba. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:20am.