

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 87 - 2018

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DECEMBER 19, 2018

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending Part Seventeen, Building and Housing, Title One, Standards and Administration, Section 1705, International Electrical Code to allow for a one-time exception for 'non-reciprocating' electricians to obtain an electrical permit. Also amending Section 2703, Permit and Certificate of Inspection by requiring a qualified person to be present during an electrical inspection.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That City Council authorizes the following changes to Section 2703 of the National Electrical Code Ordinance:

**SECTION 2703.0 PERMIT AND CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION**  
**2703.1 GENERAL**

Electrical wiring or equipment shall not be installed within or on any building, structure or premises, nor shall any alteration be made in any such existing installation, without first securing approval and a permit from the code official except as provided for in Section 2703.2. It shall be unlawful to use or allow the use of, or to supply current for, an electrical system in a building or structure, unless the required certificate of inspection and permit have been issued by the code official. Permits may only be issued to those designated specified in Section 1707.3 to 1707.04.7. Permits are valid for one (1) year from date of issue, with the exception of permits issued to correct cited code violations, which permits shall only be valid for a period of time in accordance with the Property Rehabilitation Maintenance Code of the City of Allentown. A qualified person shall be on site at all inspections in which a licensed electrician has been issued a permit.

SECTION TWO: That City Council authorizes the following changes to Section 1705.03.9 of the National Electrical Code Ordinance:

**1705.03.9 RECIPROCITY**

The Director of Community Development, or designee, will accept, as Master Electricians, valid licenses from other municipalities that also recognize an Allentown Master Electrician's License without formal testing and in addition all other classifications listed in this Code, provided that said municipality has a testing process, provided such licensees comply with all other applicable provisions of this Code, including payment of the applicable permit fee. (13681 §1 6/4/98)

The Director of Community and Economic Development, or designee, may recognize a Master Electrician License holder from a non-reciprocating municipality provided that the applicant is deemed by the Electrician's Board to be

similarly qualified and licensed by another jurisdiction to which licensing standards equal or exceed that of the City of Allentown's. Any future permits applied by the applicant under this section will be required to obtain a City of Allentown Electrical License or a reciprocal license.

Licensing fee shall be in accordance with the current fee for Master Electrician licensing.

SECTION THREE: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION FOUR: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**  
Department of Community and Economic Development, Bureau of Building Standards and Safety.
- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**  
An amendment to Article 700, Section 1705.03 Scope 1705.03.01
- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
  - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
  - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
  - **How does this Bill related to the City’s Vision/Mission/Priorities**

Amend electrical inspections for residential properties mandate that a qualified person, employee or electrician associated with the job on the permit must be present for all inspections or the inspection will not take place.

Allow a one (1) time permit issuance for non-reciprocating electricians who do not wish to take the exam for the City of Allentown, it would be a (1) time electrical license only that will allow them to obtain one (1) permit as long as they obtain a business license with the City of Allentown, provide proof of insurance with the city of Allentown as a certificate holder. Any permits after the one (1) time license the individual would have to take the exam with the City of Allentown or produce a valid reciprocating electrician license.
- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
  - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
  - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

This could reduce contractors pulling permits under their business & electrical licenses for unlicensed technicians.

It could also reduce the risk of improper work being done in residential properties.
- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
  - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

None.
- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**  
Approval for this prior to December 31, 2018 so it can be implemented for the beginning of the 2019 year
- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**  
It benefits the city in issues of safety and could also create extra revenue. It would also save inspectors time in going out for inspections with unqualified person(s), employee(s) or electricians(s) on the job site that do not show up or have knowledge of the job because they obtained the permit for the unlicensed electrician.