ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 209—ASSEMBLYMEN PRICE, COLLINS, CHOWNING, DE BRAGA, PARKS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, ARBERRY, OHRENSCHALL, GIBBONS, WILLIAMS, VON TOBEL, SEGERBLOM, BUCKLEY, ANDERSON, CARPENTER AND BACHE

## FEBRUARY 11, 1999

## Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Creates licensing board for electricians. (BDR 54-45)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes. Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to electricians; creating the board of electricians' examiners; prescribing the duties and powers of the board; providing for licensing and disciplinary actions; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Title 54 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
- 2 new chapter to consist of the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 26,
- 3 inclusive, of this act.
- Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,
- 5 the words and terms defined in sections 3 and 4 of this act have the
- 6 meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
- Sec. 3. "Board" means the board of electricians' examiners.
- 8 Sec. 4. "Licensed electrician" means a person licensed pursuant to
- 9 this chapter to install electrical wires, fixtures, appliances, apparatuses,
- 10 raceways and conduits.
- 11 Sec. 5. 1. The board of electricians' examiners, consisting of five
- 12 members appointed by the governor, is hereby created.
- 13 2. The governor shall appoint:
- 14 (a) Four members who are licensed electricians; and
- 15 (b) One member who is a representative of the general public.

- 3. The members of the board must have been residents of this state for not less than 5 years immediately preceding the date of their appointment.
  - 4. Three members of the board constitute a quorum.
- 5. The board shall meet at least four times a year and may meet at 6 other times at the call of a majority of the members.
- 7 6. A member of the board is not liable in a civil action for any act 8 that he performs in good faith in the execution of his duties pursuant to 9 this chapter.
- Sec. 6. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each member of the board shall take:
- 12 1. The constitutional oath of office; and
- 2. An oath that he is legally qualified to serve as a member of the board.
- Sec. 7. If a member of the board fails to attend the meetings of the board or fails to attend to the business of the board, as determined necessary in the discretion of the board, the board shall notify the governor. The governor shall remove that member from the board and appoint a person qualified pursuant to this chapter to replace him for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 21 Sec. 8. The board shall:

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- 22 1. Review and evaluate applications for the licensing of electricians;
  - 2. Determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants;
- 24 3. Issue, renew, reinstate, revoke, suspend and deny licenses, as appropriate;
- 26 4. Investigate any complaints filed with the board concerning electricians:
- 28 5. Impose any penalties that it determines are necessary for the administration of the provisions of this chapter;
- 6. Employ attorneys, investigators and other professional consultants and professional personnel necessary to the discharge of the duties of the board;
  - 7. Adopt a seal;
  - 8. Adopt a code of ethics governing the practice of electricians;
- 9. Transact any other business necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter; and
- 37 10. Adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this 38 chapter.
- Sec. 9. 1. The secretary and employees of the board are entitled to receive a salary in the amount fixed by the board.
- 2. The members of the board, including the secretary, and the employees of the board are entitled to receive a per diem allowance and

- 1 travel expenses at a rate fixed by the board, while engaged in the
- business of the board. The rate must not exceed the rate provided for
  state officers and employees generally.
- Sec. 10. 1. The secretary of the board shall receive and account for all money paid to the board and deposit the money in a bank or a savings and loan association located in this state.
- 2. The compensation and expenses of members and employees of the board, and the expenses of administering the provisions of this chapter, must be paid from the fees received by the board.
- 3. The board shall, before September 1 of each even-numbered year, for the biennium ending June 30 of that year, submit to the governor a written report of its activities. The report must include the results of the annual audit of the fiscal records of the board.
- 14 4. The board shall provide a copy of the report to any person who 15 submits a written request to the board.
  - Sec. 11. The board shall maintain a record for each person who:
- 17 1. Applies for a license pursuant to this chapter. The record must 18 include:
  - (a) The name, age and place of residence of the applicant;
- 20 (b) The name and address of the employer of the applicant, if the applicant is employed, or the address of the place of business of the applicant, if he is self-employed;
- (c) The date on which the board received the application;
- 24 (d) A description of the action taken by the board on the application 25 and the date on which the board took such action;
- 26 (e) If a license is issued to the applicant, the number of the license; 27 and
- 28 (f) Such other information as the board may require.
- 29 2. Is licensed pursuant to this chapter. The record must include:
- 30 (a) The name and address of the licensee; and
- 31 (b) Such other information as the board may require.
- 32 Sec. 12. An applicant for a license must:
- 33 1. Submit to the board a completed application and the fees required pursuant to section 13 of this act; and
- 2. Pass an examination prescribed by the board.
- Sec. 13. 1. The board shall, by regulation, establish fees for:
- 37 (a) The examination of an applicant for a license;
- 38 (b) The initial issuance of a license; and
- 39 (c) The renewal of a license.

- 40 2. The fees must be set in such an amount as to reimburse the board 41 for the cost of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.
- 42 Sec. 14. A license issued pursuant to this chapter:
- 43 1. Expires 3 years after it is issued by the board.

- 2. Must be serially numbered and contain:
- 2 (a) The number of the license;
  - (b) The designation "Licensed Electrician";
- 4 (c) The name of the person licensed;
- 5 (d) The date of issuance;

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- (e) The seal of the board; and
- 7 (f) The signature of the secretary of the board.
- 8 3. Is a revocable privilege and the holder of such a license does not a cquire thereby any vested right.
- Sec. 15. If an applicant for licensure pursuant to this chapter is a natural person, his application must include his social security number.
- 12 The board shall keep the social security number of each applicant and 13 licensee in the record for the applicant or licensee, as appropriate,
- 14 created pursuant to section 11 of this act.
- Sec. 16. 1. A natural person who applies for the issuance or renewal of an electrician's license pursuant to this chapter shall submit to the board the statement prescribed by the welfare division of the
- department of human resources pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.
- 20 2. The board shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:
- 22 (a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the 23 issuance or renewal of the license; or
  - (b) A separate form prescribed by the board.
- 25 3. An electrician's license may not be issued or renewed by the board 26 if the applicant is a natural person who:
  - (a) Fails to submit the statement required by subsection 1; or
- 28 (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that
- 29 he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in
- 30 compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or
- other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.
- 4. If the electrician's license of a natural person has been suspended or revoked pursuant to section 23 of this act, the board may not reinstate the license if the person:
  - (a) Fails to submit the statement required by subsection 1; or
- 37 (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that
- he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in
- 39 compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or
- 40 other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount 41 owed pursuant to the order.
- 42 5. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to
- 43 subsection I that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child

- and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of 3 the amount owed pursuant to the order, the board shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.
  - The board shall keep each statement submitted by an applicant pursuant to subsection 1 in the record of the applicant created pursuant to section 11 of this act.

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- Sec. 17. 1. If the board receives a copy of a court order issued pursuant to NRS 425.540 that provides for the suspension of all 11 12 professional, occupational and recreational licenses, certificates and 13 permits issued to a person who is the holder of an electrician's license, the board shall deem the electrician's license issued to that person 15 pursuant to this chapter to be suspended at the end of the 30th day after the date on which the court order was issued unless the board receives a letter issued to the holder of the license by the district attorney or other 17 public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 stating that the holder of the license has complied with the subpoena or warrant or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS 425.560. 20
- The board shall reinstate an electrician's license that has been suspended by a district court pursuant to NRS 425.540 if the board receives a letter issued by the district attorney or other public agency pursuant to NRS 425.550 to the person whose license was suspended stating that the person whose license was suspended has complied with 26 the subpoena or warrant, or has satisfied the arrearage pursuant to NRS *425.560*.
  - Sec. 18. 1. The board, or any member thereof, may issue a subpoena for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers.
  - The district court in and for the county in which a hearing conducted by the board is to be held may compel the attendance of witnesses, the giving of testimony and the production of books and papers as required by a subpoena issued pursuant to subsection 1.
  - If a witness refuses to testify or produce any books or papers required by the subpoena, the board may file a petition ex parte with the district court, setting forth that:
- (a) Notice has been given of the time and place for the attendance of 38 the witness or the production of the books and papers; 39
- (b) The witness has been subpoenaed in the manner prescribed by this 40 chapter; 41

- (c) The witness has failed or refused to attend or produce the books or papers required by the subpoena before the board in the cause or proceeding named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him in the course of the hearing; and
- (d) The board, therefore, requests an order of the court compelling the witness to attend and testify or produce the books or papers before the board. 7
- *4*. The court, upon such a petition, shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before the court at a time and place fixed by the court in the order, and then and there to show cause why he has not attended or testified, or produced the books or papers before the board. The time 12 may not be more than 10 days after the date of the order. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the witness.
  - If the court determines that the subpoena was regularly issued by the board, the court shall thereupon enter an order that the witness appear before the board at the time and place fixed in the order, and testify or produce the required books or papers. Failure to obey an order of the court issued pursuant to this subsection constitutes contempt of court.
- Sec. 19. A witness who appears by order of the board or of the court 21 pursuant to section 18 of this act is entitled to receive for attendance the 22 same fees and mileage allowed by law to a witness in a civil case. The amount must be paid by the party who requested the subpoena. If a witness who has not been required to attend at the request of a party is subpoenaed by the board, his fees and mileage must be paid from the money of the board.
  - Sec. 20. 1. The board may, in any hearing before it, cause the depositions of witnesses to be taken in the manner prescribed for depositions in civil actions in this state.
  - The district court in and for the county in which any hearing is 2. held by the board shall, upon application of the board, issue a commission to another state for the taking of evidence in that state for use in any proceeding before the board.
- Sec. 21. The grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to 34 this chapter are: 35
- Unprofessional conduct. 36 1.
- **Conviction of:** 37
- 38 (a) A felony;

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- (b) Any offense involving moral turpitude; or
- (c) A violation of any federal or state law regulating the possession, 40 distribution or use of any controlled substance as defined in chapter 453 41 42 of NRS or dangerous drugs as defined in chapter 454 of NRS.
  - 3. Fraud or deception in:

- (a) Applying for the issuance or renewal of a license;
- (b) Undergoing the initial examination; or 2
  - (c) Rendering services as a licensed electrician.
- 4. Allowing the unauthorized use of a license issued pursuant to this 4 chapter.
  - Professional incompetence. *5*.
    - Habitual drunkenness.

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- Sec. 22. 1. The board or any of its members who become aware of any ground for initiating disciplinary action against a licensed
- electrician in this state shall, and any other person who is so aware may, file a written complaint with the board.
- The complaint must specifically: 12
- 13 (a) Set forth the relevant facts; and
- (b) Charge one or more grounds for initiating disciplinary action. 14
- 3. As soon as practicable after the filing of the complaint, the board 15 shall fix a date for a hearing on the matter. The date must not be later than 30 days after the date on which the complaint is filed with the
- board, except that the date may be extended upon agreement of both the licensee and the board.
- The secretary of the board shall: 20
- (a) Notify the person that a complaint against him has been filed; 21
- (b) Inform him of the date, time and place set for the hearing; and 22
- (c) Include a copy of the complaint with the notice. 23
- The notice and complaint may be served on the person by delivery 24 to him personally or by registered or certified mail to him at his last known address. 26
- Sec. 23. 1. If the board finds the person guilty as charged in the 27 complaint, it may: 28
- (a) Place the person on probation for a specified period or until 29 further order of the board; 30
  - (b) Administer to the person a public or private reprimand;
- (c) Suspend the license of the person to practice as an electrician for a 32 specified period or until further order of the board;
  - (d) Revoke the license of the person to practice as an electrician;
- (e) Impose a fine of not more than \$5,000, which must be deposited 35 36 with the state treasurer for credit to the state general fund; or
- (f) Take any combination of the actions authorized by paragraphs (a) 37 to (e), inclusive. 38
- The order of the board may contain such other terms, provisions 39 or conditions as the board deems proper. 40
- If the board revokes or suspends a license for a specified period, 41
- 42 the holder of the license may apply for a rehearing within 10 days after
- 43 the date on which the license is revoked or suspended.

- 4. A person whose license has been revoked pursuant to this section may not apply for reinstatement of his license before 1 year after the date his license is revoked. The board may accept or reject such an application and may require the successful completion of an examination as a condition of reinstatement.
  - Sec. 24. 1. Any records or information obtained during the course of an investigation by the board and any record of the investigation are confidential until the investigation is completed. Upon completion of the investigation, the information and records are public records, only if:
- 10 (a) Disciplinary action is imposed by the board as a result of the 11 investigation; or
- 12 (b) The person regarding whom the investigation was made submits a 13 written request to the board asking that the information and records be 14 made public records.
- This section does not prohibit the board from providing any such
  records or information to another licensing board or any agency,
  including a law enforcement agency, that is investigating a person
  licensed pursuant to this chapter.
  - Sec. 25. 1. A person shall not:
  - (a) Practice as an electrician; or

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- (b) Hold himself out as qualified to practice as an electrician, without first obtaining a license as provided by this chapter.
- 23 2. A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
  - Sec. 26. 1. A violation of this chapter by a person unlawfully representing himself as an electrician may be enjoined by a district court upon petition by the board. In any such proceeding, it is not necessary to show that a person is or was individually injured.
- 29 2. If a person is found guilty of misrepresenting himself as an electrician, the court shall enjoin him from making such representations until he has been licensed pursuant to this chapter. The procedure in such a proceeding must be the same as for any other application for an injunction.
- 34 3. The remedy of an injunction is in addition to any applicable criminal prosecution and punishment.
- Sec. 27. Chapter 624 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:
- The board shall not issue any license that authorizes a person to install any electrical wires, fixtures, appliances, apparatuses, raceways or conduits.
- Sec. 28. NRS 624.215 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 42 624.215 1. For the purpose of classification, the contracting business
- 43 includes the following branches:

- (a) General engineering contracting.
- 2 (b) General building contracting.
  - (c) Specialty contracting.

- General engineering contracting and general building contracting are mutually exclusive branches.
  - 2. A general engineering contractor is a contractor whose principal contracting business is in connection with fixed works, including irrigation, drainage, water supply, water power, flood control, harbors, railroads, highways, tunnels, airports and airways, sewers and sewage disposal systems, bridges, inland waterways, pipelines for transmission of petroleum and other liquid or gaseous substances, refineries, chemical plants and industrial plants requiring a specialized engineering knowledge and skill, power plants, piers and foundations and structures or work incidental thereto.
  - 3. A general building contractor is a contractor whose principal contracting business is in connection with the construction or remodeling of buildings or structures for the support, shelter and enclosure of persons, animals, chattels or movable property of any kind, requiring in their construction the use of more than two unrelated building trades or crafts, upon which he is a prime contractor and where the construction or remodeling of a building is the primary purpose. Unless he holds the appropriate specialty license, a general building contractor may only contract to perform specialty contracting if he is a prime contractor on a project. A general building contractor shall not perform specialty contracting in plumbing, [electrical,] refrigeration and air conditioning, or fire protection without a license for the specialty [.] issued pursuant to this chapter. A person who exclusively constructs or repairs mobile homes, manufactured homes or commercial coaches is not a general building contractor.
  - 4. A specialty contractor is a contractor whose operations as such are the performance of construction work requiring special skill and whose principal contracting business involves the use of specialized building trades or crafts.
  - 5. This section does not prevent the board from establishing, broadening, limiting or otherwise effectuating classifications in a manner consistent with established custom, usage and procedure found in the building trades. The board is specifically prohibited from establishing classifications in such a manner as to determine or limit craft jurisdictions.
- Sec. 29. NRS 624.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 40 624.330 This chapter does not apply to:
- 1. Work done exclusively by an authorized representative of the
- 42 United States Government, the State of Nevada, or an incorporated city,

county, irrigation district, reclamation district, or other municipal or political corporation or subdivision of this state.

- 2. An officer of a court when acting within the scope of his office.
- 3. Work done exclusively by a public utility operating pursuant to the regulations of the public utilities commission of Nevada on construction, maintenance and development work incidental to its own business.
- 4. An owner of property who is building or improving a residential structure on the property for his own occupancy and not intended for sale. The sale or offering for sale of the newly built structure within 1 year after its completion creates a rebuttable presumption for the purposes of this section that the building of the structure was performed with intent to sell.
  - 5. An owner of a complex containing not more than four condominiums, townhouses, apartments or cooperative units, the managing officer of the owner or an employee of the managing officer, who performs work to repair or maintain that property the value of which is less than \$500, including labor and materials, unless:
    - (a) A building permit is required to perform the work;
  - (b) The work is of a type performed by a plumbing, [electrical,] refrigeration, heating or air-conditioning contractor;
- 20 (c) The work is of a type performed by a contractor licensed in a 21 classification prescribed by the board that significantly affects the health, 22 safety and welfare of members of the general public;
  - (d) The work is performed as a part of a larger project:
    - (1) The value of which is \$500 or more; or

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- (2) For which contracts of less than \$500 have been awarded to evade the provisions of this chapter; or
- (e) The work is performed by a person who is licensed pursuant to this chapter or by an employee of such a person.
- 6. The sale or installation of any finished product, material or article of merchandise which is not actually fabricated into and does not become a permanent fixed part of the structure.
- 7. The construction, alteration, improvement or repair of personal property.
  - 8. The construction, alteration, improvement or repair financed in whole or in part by the Federal Government and carried on within the limits and boundaries of a site or reservation, the title of which rests in the Federal Government.
- 9. An owner of property, the primary use of which is as an agricultural or farming enterprise, building or improving a structure on the property for his own use or occupancy and not intended for sale or lease.
- 10. An owner of property who builds or improves a structure upon his property and who contracts solely with a managing contractor licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter for the building or improvement,

if the owner is and remains financially responsible for the building or improving of all buildings and structures built by the owner upon his property pursuant to the exemption of this subsection.

**Sec. 30.** NRS 218.825 is hereby amended to read as follows:

218.825 1. Each of the boards and commissions created by the provisions of chapters 623 to 625A, inclusive, [chapters] 628 to 644, inclusive, [and chapters] 654 and 656 of NRS and sections 2 to 26, inclusive, of this act shall engage the services of a certified public accountant or public accountant, or firm of either of such accountants, to audit all [of] its fiscal records once each year for the preceding fiscal year or once every other year for the 2 preceding fiscal years. The cost of the audit must be paid by the board or commission audited.

- 2. A report of each such audit must be filed by the board or commission with the legislative auditor and the director of the budget on or before December 1 of each year in which an audit is conducted. All audits must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and all financial statements must be prepared in accordance with generally accepted principles of accounting for special revenue funds.
- 3. The legislative auditor shall audit the fiscal records of any such board or commission whenever directed to do so by the legislative commission. When the legislative commission directs such an audit, it shall also determine who is to pay the cost of the audit.
- Sec. 31. NRS 353A.010 is hereby amended to read as follows: 353A.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 1. "Agency" means every agency, department, division, board, commission or similar body, or elected officer, of the executive branch of the state, except:
- 29 (a) A board or commission created by the provisions of chapters 623 to 625, inclusive, 628 to 644, inclusive, 654 and 656 of NRS [...], and 31 sections 2 to 26, inclusive, of this act.
  - (b) The University and Community College System of Nevada.
  - (c) The public employees' retirement system.
  - (d) The state industrial insurance system.
    - (e) The housing division of the department of business and industry.
- 36 (f) The Colorado River commission.

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- 2. "Director" means the director of the department of administration.
- 38 3. "Internal accounting and administrative control" means a method 39 through which agencies can safeguard assets, check the accuracy and 40 reliability of their accounting information, promote efficient operations 41 and encourage adherence to prescribed managerial policies.

- The state contractors' board shall notify each person who is licensed to practice electrical contracting or engineering pursuant to chapter 624 of NRS of the licensing requirements for electrical contractors as set forth in this act.
  - **Sec. 33.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 12 of this act, the board of electricians' examiners shall, without examination, license as an electrician any person who appears before the board on or before July 1, 2000, who:
- Is licensed in good standing in this state to perform electrical contracting pursuant to the regulations adopted by the state contractors' 10 board; 11
- 2. Provides evidence satisfactory to the board of electricians' 12 examiners that he has the required experience and training; and 13
  - Submits to the board of electricians' examiners:
  - (a) A completed application; and

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- (b) The fees required pursuant to section 13 of this act. 16
- **Sec. 34.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 25 of this act, a 17 person who wishes to practice as an electrician is not required to be 18 licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act before July 1, 2000.
- As soon as practicable, the governor shall appoint to 20 21 terms beginning on October 1, 1999, to the board of electricians' examiners: 22
  - (a) One member whose term expires on September 30, 2000;
  - (b) Two members whose terms expire on September 30, 2001; and
  - (c) Two members whose terms expire on September 30, 2002.
- Notwithstanding the provisions of section 5 of this act, the governor 26 shall appoint as the initial representatives of electricians to the board of 27 electricians' examiners persons who are eligible for licensing pursuant to 28 29 this act.
- 30 **Sec. 36.** Sections 15, 16 and 17 of this act expire by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to 31 establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or 32 suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational 33 34 licenses of persons who:
- Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a 35 proceeding to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- 38 2. Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more children.
- are repealed by the Congress of the United States. 40
- Sec. 37. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act and 41 except as otherwise provided in this section, if, on October 1, 1999, there are any disciplinary actions pending against an electrician before the state

contractors' board, the state contractors' board retains jurisdiction over the matter until the matter is resolved.

- 2. The state contractors' board shall not accept any complaint and, except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, is divested of jurisdiction over all matters concerning electricians on or after October 1, 1999. The state contractors' board shall forward any complaint about an electrician that the state contractors' board receives on or after October 1, 1999, to the board of electricians' examiners.
- 9 3. Upon the agreement of the state contractors' board and the board of electricians' examiners, the state contractors' board may forward to the board of electricians' examiners any complaint filed with the state contractors' board against an electrician before October 1, 1999, if the state contractors' board has not taken any action on the complaint.
- Sec. 38. 1. This section and sections 32 and 35 of this act become effective on July 1, 1999.
- 2. Sections 1 to 31, inclusive, 33, 34, 36 and 37 of this act become effective on October 1, 1999.

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