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**Sessional Paper No. P-27**

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Petition relating to the licensing of electricians (Sessional Paper No. P-27) Mr. McDonnell. (Tabled February 29, 2012, on March 19, 2012, and on March 26, 2012)

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**Response:**

In 2006, the Licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians Regulation (o. Reg 570/050 made under the Electricity Act, 1998, came into effect establishing a provincial electrical contracting system that allows all licensed Electrical Contractor businesses to undertake electrical work throughout the province.

The provincial electrical contracting licensing system was implemented to enhance worker safety, increase consumer and public protection, address the underground economy and replace an uneven patchwork of municipal licensing requirements. The provincial licensing system is broadly supported by the industry.

Every Electrical Contractor business engaged in performing electrical work governed by the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) is required to hold a valid Electrical Contractor license. In order to be licensed as an Electrical Contractor, the business must have a Master Electrician (ME) on staff.

As a transitional measure, provisions were included for electrical contractors that operated in jurisdictions where licensing or the requirement to have a ME was not mandatory. In these circumstances, provincial licenses were granted to those that qualified for a period of up to five years or until December 31, 2011.

The ME exam is intended to test knowledge of the OESC, and other relevant legislation such as health and safety, and consumer protection laws.

The vast majority of individuals with provincial electrical contractor licenses have complied with the regulation and have either written licenses were required to comply with the regulation if they intended to continue operating after December 31, 2011.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) proactively worked with affected businesses to help them transition to the new licensing regime.



Margarett R. Best  
Minister