



## Office of Program Policy Analysis And Government Accountability

John W. Turcotte  
Director

November 14, 1996

### REVIEW OF THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD

#### REPORT ABSTRACT

- The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board is working with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee to ensure its rules are consistent with the law.
- The Board and the Committee have not reached an agreement on a Board rule defining broad experience and a rule that requires licensure applicants to have commercial contracting experience.
- The Board has not defined in rule the statutory terms "comprehensive training" and "technical education." As a result, it is not clear how applicants can qualify to sit for the state certification examination based on these types of work experience.
- The Board reviews licensure applications in a consistent manner.
- Two alternatives to the current licensing system for electrical and alarm system contractors appear to best address the problems identified by stakeholders: (1) eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state; or (2) establish a local licensing system based on licensure standards set by the state.

#### PURPOSE OF REVIEW

The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, at the request of the House Committee on Business and Professional Regulation, directed OPPAGA to address specific questions regarding the rule promulgation and licensure application review activities of the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board. We grouped these questions into the following overall issue areas:

1. Has the Board established rules that could be interpreted as modifying or contravening the licensure standards and qualifications established in statute? If yes, how and why?
2. Does the Board approve or deny licensure applications in a consistent manner?
3. Are there alternatives to the current regulatory system for electrical and alarm contractors?

#### BACKGROUND

The Florida Legislature has deemed the regulation of contractors necessary in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare. Chapter 489, F.S., provides for the licensing and regulation of contractors by establishing two separate licensing boards. The Construction Industry Licensing Board regulates contractors practicing in building and construction trades, including general, air

conditioning, and plumbing. The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board is responsible for regulating electrical and alarm system contractors.

A Construction Industry Study Committee created by the 1996 Legislature is examining the entire construction industry, including electrical and alarm contracting. The Committee is charged with recommending statutory changes relating to the licensing and regulation of construction, electrical, and alarm contracting. In addition, the Committee will review current regulatory board structure and authority, examination and licensure procedures, regulatory and disciplinary jurisdiction and procedures, and revenue and budgeting issues. The Committee is to submit its report to the Legislature no later than December 1, 1996.

The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board is composed of 11 board members: 7 certified electrical contractors, 2 alarm system contractors, and 2 consumer members. The Board, whose operations are funded by licensure fees, is responsible for the issuance and renewal of licenses and the prosecution of licensees for violations specified in statute. The Board also promulgates rules to carry out the provisions of law. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation assists the Board by processing licensure applications, administering examinations, and conducting investigations. The State Attorney General's office provides legal counsel to the Board.

The regulation of electrical and alarm systems contractors is funded directly through application, renewal, and examination fees established by the Board. These fees pay for all activities associated with Board operations, including the salaries of Department staff assigned to the Board. Currently, the Board is assisted by six full-time staff from the Department. In fiscal year 1994-95, the resources required to regulate electrical and alarm system contractors in Florida totaled approximately \$900,000.

Under current law and rule, there are four categories of state certification for electrical and alarm system contracting in Florida: (1) Unlimited Electrical Contractor, (2) Alarm System Contractor I, (3) Alarm System Contractor II, and (4) Specialty Electrical or Alarm System Contractor. To be certified, applicants must meet certain experience requirements, pass a state certification examination, and meet certain financial responsibility and insurance requirements. Applicants can satisfy the experience requirement by demonstrating experience in one of four routes: (1) three years of management experience in the trade; (2) four years of supervisory or foreman level experience in the trade; (3) six years of comprehensive training, technical education, or broad experience associated with an electrical or alarm system installation or servicing endeavor; or (4) three years as a licensed engineer. The state certification test for electrical and alarm system contractors includes both technical- and business-related questions.

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## BOARD RULES

**The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board is working with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee to ensure the Board's rules are consistent with law. However, the parties have not agreed on some issues related to the type of work experience needed by applicants. The Board also needs to clarify how it defines "comprehensive training" and "technical education."**

The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee staff identified Board rules that may modify or contravene the licensure qualifications established in law. The Committee is required by law to review all proposed rules by agencies. The Committee also conducts reviews of existing agency rules when there are law changes and upon the request of the Legislature, citizens, and other interested parties. In March 1996, the Committee conducted a review of all existing Board rules.

The Committee provided relevant comments to the Board with suggested modifications.

In general, the Board has worked with Committee staff to address their concerns and has taken steps to revise specific rules where it is necessary. However, in this revision process, one rule that has been a source of discussion is the Board's rule that defines "broad experience." Legislative staff, board members, and the Committee disagreed on how "broad experience" should be defined. The Board has defined broad experience in rule to mean supervisory experience. However, others have interpreted the term to mean technical experience or experience that includes management and supervisory responsibilities. As of September 1996, the Board and the Committee had not reached an agreement on a definition of broad experience.

The Board and the Committee also do not agree on the Board's rule requiring that a substantial portion of an applicant's work experience be in the area of commercial contracting. According to the chairperson of the Board's Rules Committee, the reason for the requirement is that commercial contracting involves higher voltages and complex electrical systems. However, Committee staff and the Board's attorney indicated that there is no specific statutory authority for this particular rule. The statutes do not specify work experience requirements in terms of commercial or residential contracting. As a result, Committee staff have requested that the Board delete this provision. Conversely, the Board feels strongly that the provision should remain in rule. As of September 1996, the Board and the Committee had not reached agreement on this issue.

Finally, in addition to the Committee's comments on existing rules, we identified one area where the lack of specific rules may be a problem. Specifically, s. 489.511, F.S., provides that licensure applicants may demonstrate the

experience required to sit for the state certification exam by having "at least 6 years of comprehensive training, technical education, or broad experience associated with an electrical or alarm system installation or servicing endeavor." Although the Board has defined the term "broad experience" in rule, it has not defined the terms "comprehensive training" or "technical education." Thus, it is not clear in rule how an applicant can qualify for the state certification exam based on these two types of work experience. As of September 1996, the Board had not defined these terms in its rules.

#### OBSERVATIONS REGARDING BOARD RULES

**Requiring licensure applicants to have commercial contracting experience appears reasonable; however, the amount of commercial experience currently required by the Board may need to be reexamined.**

Except for the specialty licenses and Certified Alarm System Contractor II, the certification categories for electrical and alarm contractors allows certified contractors to contract for both commercial and residential jobs statewide. Contractors who are only interested in residential electrical or alarm contracting can obtain a specialty license that does not require commercial contracting experience. For contractors who are seeking licensure for unlimited practice, it seems reasonable to require commercial contracting experience to ensure applicants have experience with higher voltages, fire, and burglar alarm systems. However, the Board's rule requires a substantial portion, defined by the Board as greater than 51%, of the applicant's experience to be in commercial contracting. Requiring over half the applicant's experience to be in commercial contracting may not be reasonable. For example, an applicant could have less than half of his/her total work experience (actual jobs or years) in the area of commercial contracting, but that experience could have been on large commercial jobs that covered an extended period of time.

**The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board and the Construction Industry Licensing Board operate under different licensure standards as established in law.**

The state certification examinations given by each Board include both technical and business related questions. However, the two boards have different standards for the basic type of work experience required to sit for the state certification exam. Work experience requirements for electrical and alarm system contractors focus on ensuring that applicants have the management and supervisory experience associated with a contracting business. In contrast, the work experience requirements for other types of construction contractors focus on ensuring that applicants have technical experience in the trade.

The reason why the two Boards have different work experience requirements is not clear. The only reason provided by Board members for the difference was that electrical contracting is more technical and dangerous than the other types of construction contracting. Given this fact, one would expect the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board to be the board that focused on technical aspects of the trade. Undoubtedly, both technical and business-related skills are important for construction contractors. Thus, it seems reasonable to require all contractor license applicants to have a combination of technical and business-related experience. We believe that the Construction Industry Study Committee, since it includes electrical contractors and other construction contractors, should examine the work experience requirements of both boards to sit for the state certification exams and recommend appropriate changes.

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## **APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS**

**The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board has established an application review process to ensure consistency. Our review of the process indicates that the Board renders consistent decisions on applicants with similar qualifications.**

The Board approves the majority of people who apply to take the state certification exam for electrical and alarm contractors. Between May 1994 and April 1996, 519 people applied to the Board to take the state certification exams for Certified Electrical Contractors and Certified Alarm System Contractors (categories I and II). Overall, the Board approved 370 (71%) applicants and denied 149 (29%) applicants. To determine if the Board approves or denies applications in a consistent manner, we observed the Board's application review process, reviewed 100 applications, and asked Board members to review a small sample of applications.

**The Board's application review process is set up to ensure consistency.** The Board's application review process contains several steps to help ensure consistency. When an application is submitted to the Board, department staff verify that the application contains all required documentation (such as job lists and credit reports). The Department transmits completed applications to the Board, which determines if the applicants are eligible to take the state certification exam. Two board members independently review each application to determine if the applicant meets all eligibility requirements. The board members discuss the application between themselves, with the chairperson, with the board attorney, and with the applicant if present. Once the board members recommend the approval or denial of the application, the chairperson reviews each application. Consistency is enhanced because three board members review and render a decision on

each application, thus providing a check-and-balance.

To further ensure consistency, the Board developed a worksheet that lists reasons for denying an applicant from sitting for the state certification exam. The Board generally denies applicants for the following reasons: incomplete application (for example, incomplete job list); lack of required work experience (for example, lack of commercial contracting experience); and lack of required financial information (for example, missing credit report). The worksheet helps ensure that board members are consistent when reviewing an application, and members are required to document their reasons for denying an application on the worksheet. We observed that the Board's application review process is being followed and that board members complete a worksheet for each application.

**Our review of applications demonstrates that the Board is consistent.** Based on our examination of 50 applications the Board approved and 50 applications they denied, we concluded the Board rendered consistent decisions on applicants with similar qualifications. The following examples describe how the Board's decisions are consistent in the areas of employment history, work experience, and commercial contracting experience:

- **Employment History:** The Board requires all applicants to provide documentation that verifies employment history and jobs completed by the applicant. All 50 approved applications we reviewed included documentation of employment history and jobs completed. The Board consistently denied applications that did not include employment history documentation and jobs completed.
- **Work Experience:** The Board also requires applicants to meet certain experience requirements. Our review of applications showed the Board consistently approved

applicants with supervisory, financial, or managerial experience and consistently denied applicants who only had technical, hands-on experience.

- **Commercial Contracting Experience:** The Board requires that an applicant demonstrate a substantial portion of work experience in commercial contracting. Our review of applications showed the Board consistently approved applicants who demonstrated commercial contracting experience and consistently denied applicants who lacked commercial contracting experience.

**Board members also demonstrated consistency by rendering the same decisions when asked to review the same four applications.** A final method of evaluating the Board's consistency was to see if they rendered the same decisions to approve or deny an applicant when given the same application. We grouped the board members into five teams and asked each team to review four applications that the Board reviewed within the last two years. The board members rendered consistent decisions to approve or deny the four applications. While the board members rendered different decisions on one application, they were still consistent: three teams approved the application contingent on the applicant submitting missing paperwork, and two teams denied the application because of the same missing paperwork. Therefore, we concluded that the Board approves and denies applicants with similar qualifications in a consistent manner.

#### **OBSERVATIONS REGARDING APPLICANTS**

**The Board does not appear to discriminate against applicants who are not employed by contracting companies or who lack financial experience.** Applicants for the electrical and alarm system state certification exam must meet certain experience requirements specified in statute. However, there were two perceptions about the

Board's experience requirements that our review of 100 applications did not confirm:

- **“The Board approves only those applicants who have work experience with electrical or alarm contracting companies”:** While it is perceived that to be approved an applicant must have work experience with a contracting company, 5 of the 50 approved applicants whose files we reviewed did not indicate work experience with a contracting company in their employment history.
- **“The Board approves only those applicants with financial experience”:** Although it is perceived that an applicant must have financial experience (estimating, bidding, and payroll experience) to be approved, 7 of the 50 approved applicants whose files we reviewed did not indicate financial experience in their employment history.

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## ALTERNATIVES

**Based on problems and issues identified by stakeholders, two alternatives to the current licensing system for electrical and alarm contractors appear to be the most feasible: (1) eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state; or (2) establish a local licensing system based on licensing standards and examinations set by the state.**

Currently, Florida has a two-tier licensure system for electrical and alarm contractors: contractors can be licensed at both the state (certification) and local (registered) levels. State certified contractors must meet state application requirements and pass the state competency examination, while registered contractors must meet local licensure requirements or hold a locally issued occupational licenses. Certified contractors are authorized to practice statewide, whereas registered contractors may

practice only in the jurisdiction for which they are registered.

Florida's licensure system for electrical and alarm contractors generally differs from other states we contacted. To compare Florida's system to other states, we interviewed state licensure officials in 10 other states.<sup>1</sup> Unlike Florida, most (8 out of 10) states we contacted require contractors to be licensed at the state level without giving them an option to be just locally licensed.<sup>2</sup> In Texas, electrical contractors are licensed at the city or county level, not at the state level. Like Florida, Alabama allows electrical contractors the option of local or state licensure. Unlike Florida, most (7 out of 10) of the states we contacted combine the regulation of electrical contractors with the regulation of other types of contractors.

According to stakeholders we interviewed and a Department report, Florida's current licensure system results in duplication of effort and confusion among licensees due to the lack of uniformity for licensure qualifications.<sup>3</sup> Under the current system, multiple jurisdictions (approximately 350 local jurisdictions plus the state) and entities process and review licensure applications, administer examinations, issue licenses, and create bureaucracies to support regulation. This creates confusion among licensees and consumers because each jurisdiction can have different categories of licensure with different requirements. However, the current system has the advantage of providing prospective contractors the option of state certification and/or local registration. Using input from stakeholders, we

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<sup>1</sup> We contacted the following 10 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. These states were selected on the basis of size (total resident population and population growth), geographic proximity to Florida, and reputation.

<sup>2</sup> Louisiana requires state licensure for contracting jobs over a specified voltage level. Local licensure is needed for jobs under the specified amount. In addition, Mississippi and South Carolina require state licensure for contracting jobs over specified dollar amounts. For jobs under these amounts, local licensure is required.

<sup>3</sup> Briefing papers prepared by Department staff for the Construction Industry Study Committee meeting held on July 16, 1996.

identified criteria to be considered in evaluating alternative licensure systems. These criteria are:

1. **Administrative Feasibility.** The capacity of a licensing system to be administered so as to minimize the duplication of essential functions (i.e., processing applications, administering exams).
2. **Cost Minimization.** The degree to which a licensing system minimizes excess costs to the licensees, consumers, and the state.
3. **Uniformity.** The capacity of a licensing system to assure licensees and consumers that persons licensed in similar categories have met similar qualifications.
4. **Access.** The availability of timely and easily accessible regulatory processes for both licensees and consumers.
5. **License Portability.** The ability of licensees to practice in multiple jurisdictions without meeting additional licensing requirements (i.e., taking another exam).

We applied these criteria to five alternative licensure systems identified through discussions

with stakeholders and licensing officials in other states. These alternative systems are:

- Maintain the current two-tier licensing system;
- Keep the two-tier licensing system but combine the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board and the Construction Industry Licensing Board;
- Eliminate state licensure and rely totally on local licensure;
- Eliminate local licensure and require contractors to be licensed by the state; and
- Establish a local licensing system based on state licensure standards and examinations.

In applying these criteria, we assumed that the regulation of electrical and alarm system contractors would continue to be funded by application and examination fees. Overall, we found that the last two alternatives appear to best address the identified criteria. Exhibit 1 shows our evaluation of alternatives based on the criteria.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Two Alternative Licensure Systems Appear the Most Feasible**

Alternative	Administrative Feasibility	Costs Minimization	Uniformity	Access	Portability
Maintain the current two-tier licensure system				✓	✓
Combine the electrical and construction licensing boards (two-tier licensure system remains intact)			✓	✓	✓
Eliminate state licensure and rely totally on local licensure				✓	
Eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state	✓	✓	✓		✓
Establish a local licensing system based on licensure standards and examinations set by the state		✓	✓	✓	✓

Source: Florida Legislature, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

We also identified advantages and disadvantages to the current licensing system and to each of the alternative licensure systems. To identify the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative,

we spoke with board members, local building officials, licensing officials in 10 other states, and other stakeholders. Exhibit 2 identifies the five alternatives and their advantages and disadvantages.

**Exhibit 2**  
**There are Advantages and Disadvantages to Alternative Regulatory Systems**

<b>Alternatives</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Maintain the current two-tier licensure system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Contractors and consumers have access to a local licensing system</li> <li>+ Contractors can obtain a state license that will allow them to practice statewide (portability)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Duplication of licensing functions exists among the multiple licensing jurisdictions</li> <li>■ No assurance that all licensed contractors meet similar licensure requirements</li> <li>■ The existence of multiple licensing jurisdictions creates confusion</li> <li>■ Multiple licensing fees or examination fees</li> </ul>
<b>Combine the electrical and construction licensing boards (two-tier licensure system remains intact)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Contractors can obtain a state license that will allow them to practice statewide (portability)</li> <li>+ Contractors and consumers have access to a local licensing system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Duplication of licensing functions exists among the local licensing jurisdictions</li> <li>■ No assurance that locally licensed contractors meet similar licensure requirements</li> <li>■ Multiple licensing fees or examination fees</li> </ul>
<b>Eliminate state licensure and rely totally on local licensure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ No duplication of licensing functions between state and local levels</li> <li>+ Contractors and consumers have access to a local licensing system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Duplication of licensing functions exists among the local licensing jurisdictions</li> <li>■ No assurance that all licensed contractors meet similar licensure requirements</li> <li>■ Contractor (licensee) mobility would be limited (portability)</li> <li>■ Multiple licensing fees or examination fees</li> </ul>
<b>Eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Uniform licensure qualifications statewide</li> <li>+ Licensed contractors can work in all areas of the state without meeting additional requirements</li> <li>+ Consumer confusion reduced because all licensed contractors would meet the same requirements</li> <li>+ No multiple licensing fees or examination fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Contractors would not have access to local licenses</li> <li>■ Local jurisdictions would lose licensure fees as a source of revenue</li> </ul>

Alternatives	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Establish a local licensing system based on licensure standards and examinations set by the state</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Uniform licensure qualifications statewide</li> <li>✦ Contractors and consumers have access to a local licensing system</li> <li>✦ Consumer confusion reduced because all licensed contractors would meet the same requirements</li> <li>✦ Licensed contractors can work in all areas of the state without meeting additional requirements</li> <li>✦ No multiple licensing fees or examination fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Duplication of licensing functions (i.e., processing applications) exists among the different local units issuing licenses</li> <li>■ Local interpretations of the state standards could affect uniformity</li> </ul>

Source: Florida Legislature, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

Based on the advantages and disadvantages of licensing alternatives, two alternatives appear to be the most feasible. One alternative is to eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state. According to Department staff, most states have a single-tier licensure system that requires all contractors to be licensed by the state. The other alternative is to establish a local licensing system based on licensure standards set by the state. Both of these licensing alternatives protect the public by ensuring that all licensed electrical and alarm contractors meet the same licensure qualifications. These alternatives should also eliminate confusion among licensees and consumers regarding the qualifications of licensed contractors, and should allow contractors to practice in multiple localities without meeting additional licensing requirements.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, we concluded that the Board is working with Committee staff to revise its rules to ensure consistency with the law and that the Board reviews licensure applications in a consistent manner. However, we identified several ways that the state's regulation of electrical and alarm system contractors could be improved. Specifically, we recommend that the Legislature:

- Consider the following alternatives: eliminate local licensure and require all contractors to be licensed by the state, or establish a local

licensing system based on licensing standards and examinations set by the state. Both alternatives would protect the public by ensuring that all licensed electrical and alarm system contractors meet the same licensure qualifications.

We also recommend that the Board:

- Propose statutory changes that would provide specific authority for the Board's rule requiring commercial contracting experience. This would specify work experience requirements in terms of commercial or residential contracting.
- Incorporate or define in its rules the terms "comprehensive training" and "technical education" as provided for in s. 489.511(2)(a)3.c., F.S. These definitions should clarify how an applicant can qualify to take the state certification examination under these types of work experience.

Finally, we recommend that the Construction Industry Study Committee:

- Examine whether the basic work experience requirements for electrical and alarm system contractors should be different than the requirements for other construction contractors and recommend changes if appropriate. In examining this issue, we recommend that the Committee consider whether all contractors should be required to demonstrate a combination of technical and business-related work experience.

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## AGENCY RESPONSE

November 4, 1996

Mr. John Turcotte  
Director  
Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
Government Accountability  
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Post Office Box 1735  
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Dear Mr. Turcotte:

Pursuant to Section 11.45(7)(d), Florida Statutes, attached is the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's response to the preliminary and tentative findings for your Review of the Electrical Contractor's Licensing Board.

The Department and the Electrical Contractor's Licensing Board appreciates the work of your staff and will diligently pursue appropriate resolution of the findings and recommendations.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard T. Farrell  
Secretary

RTF/kc/vbh

Attachment

## RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE OF PROGRAM POLICY ANALYSIS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW OF THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARD

**1. The ECLB and the JAPC have not reached an agreement on a Board rule defining "broad experience."**

Jeff Peters, Counsel for the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board and Suzanne Printy, Counsel for the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, have agreed upon the following definition of "broad experience."

61G6-5.001(15), F.A.C., "Broad experience" means that he or she has experience in the electrical or alarm contracting industry which may include management, supervision and hands on experience in the installation of electrical or alarm components as applicable.

This language has been noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly and will be filed with the Secretary of State in December 1996.

**2. The ECLB and the JAPC have not reached an agreement on a Board rule that requires licensure applicants to have commercial contracting experience.**

61G6-5.003(1), F.A.C., requires an applicant for the Unlimited Electrical Contractor examination show experience that includes a substantial proportion of work that is commercial and 3-phase service.

The JAPC objection to 61G6-5.003(1), F.A.C., is based on the lack of specific statutory authority requiring commercial and 3-phase experience as a requirement to take the examination.

The ECLB objects to the elimination of the requirement because an unlimited electrical contractor license covers all aspects of contracting regulated under Chapter 469, Part II, including commercial contracting which involves higher voltages and complex electrical systems. If the requirement is eliminated, contractors with limited experience in commercial and 3-phase projects will immediately be licensed to perform such work.

The Residential Electrical Contractor specialty certification was created to cover 1, 2, 3, or family residences not exceeding 2 stories in height. Applicants with single phase, residential experience who are not qualified to work on commercial and 3-phase projects can apply to take the residential electrical contractor examination.

The ECLB will propose specific statutory authority for the rule requiring commercial and 3-phase experience.

**3. The ECLB has not defined in rule the statutory terms "comprehensive training" and "technical education."**

The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee has not requested the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board define the statutory terms "comprehensive

training" and "technical education." As a result of the OPPAGA review, the issue has been placed on the November 1996 Rules committee discussion.

**4. The Board rule requires a substantial portion, defined by the Board as greater than 51%, of the applicant's experience be in commercial contracting.**

61G6-5.001(14), F.A.C., defining "substantial portion as a proportion of work experience greater than 51%" was deleted at the August 1996 ECLB rules workshop.

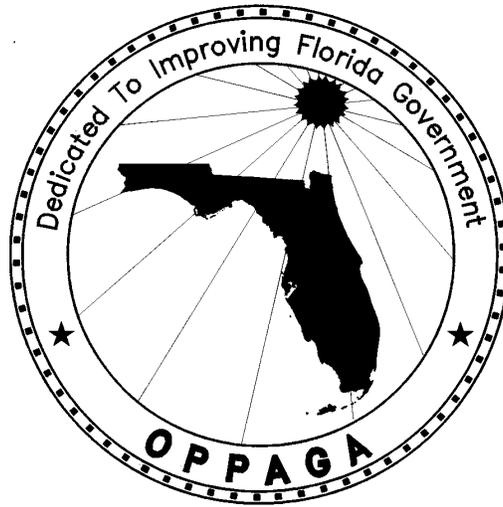
**5. Eliminate local licensure and require all contractors be licensed by the state, or establish a local licensing system based on standards.**

The Construction Industry Study Committee is addressing this issue as part of its review.

**6. Recommend the Construction Industry Study Committee consider whether all contractors (CILB and ECLB) should be required to demonstrate a combination of technical and business-related work experience.**

The deadline for the Construction Industry Study Committee report is December 1, 1996. Since there is not sufficient time for the Committee to adequately review the statutory required technical and business-related work experience for the Construction Industry Licensing Board and Electrical Contractors Licensing Board, the issue will be placed on the March 1997 joint meeting agenda.

**The Florida Legislature**  
**Office of Program Policy Analysis**  
**and Government Accountability**



**Mission Statement**

**This Office provides objective, independent, professional analyses of state policies and services to assist the Florida Legislature in decision-making, to ensure government accountability, and to recommend the best use of public resources.**

This project was conducted in accordance with applicable evaluation standards. Copies of this report may be obtained by telephone (904/488-1023 or 800/531-2477), by FAX (904/487-3804), in person (Claude Pepper Building, Room 312, 111 W. Madison St.), or by mail (OPPAGA Report Production, P.O. Box 1735, Tallahassee, FL 32302). Web site: <http://www.state.fl.us/oppaga/>

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