

CHAPTER 25

ELECTRICAL COMMISSION, ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS AND LICENSED ELECTRICIANS

1. **BUILDING OFFICIAL AND INSPECTION DIVISION.** Whenever the words "Inspection Division" are used in this chapter, it shall refer to the Building Inspections Division of the Economic and Community Development Department of the City of Decatur, Illinois.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2017-07, February 6, 2017)
(Amended, Ordinance No. 2010-03, February 1, 2010)
(Amended, Ordinance No. 2000-11, March 13, 2000)

2. **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings set out herein:

A. **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR** means any person engaged in the business of installing, altering, or servicing of electrical equipment as herein defined, and has passed an examination as required by this ordinance and licensed by the City of Decatur or any City in the State of Illinois with a reciprocal agreement as herein defined. (Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

B. **ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT** means: Conductors and other equipment installed for the utilization of electricity for lights, heat or power, but does not include radio apparatus or equipment for wireless reception of sound and signals, or apparatus, conductors or other equipment installed for or by public utilities, including common carriers, which are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission, for use in their operation as public utilities.

Revised 02/2017

C. COMMISSION means: The Electrical Commission of the City of Decatur, as established by this Chapter.

D. RECIPROCITY means: Any person, firm, or corporation who is licensed for the current year in any city, village, or town in the State of Illinois where requirements of licensing are equal to or greater than the requirements of the City of Decatur may obtain a City of Decatur Electrical Contractor's license by filing an application, paying the \$100.00 registration fee, and providing a copy of their current license from the aforementioned city, village, or town.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2010-03, February 1, 2010)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

3. **LICENSE REQUIRED.** (A) No corporation, partnership, or other person shall install, alter or service electrical equipment in the City of Decatur, Illinois, without first having obtained a license as an Electrical Contractor in the City of Decatur except that, any Electrical Contractor who obtains a City of Decatur license through reciprocity may install, alter or service electrical equipment in this City without securing an additional license so long as such contractor complies with the rules and regulations and provisions of ordinance of this City.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

. (B) The license requirements of subsection (A) hereof shall not apply:

(1) to persons working under the supervision of a person licensed under the provisions of subsection (A); or, (Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

(2) to persons residing, or intending to reside, in a single family dwelling owned by such person or persons and who install, alter or service electrical equipment therein - provided that, said owner/occupant must submit to a minimum written test as prescribed by the Electrical Commission and pass said test with a satisfactory score of 70% and such person or persons must reside in said residence for not less than six (6) months after completion of such work, and that such work is subject to all other requirements of applicable Code or ordinance.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 95-15, April 3, 1995)

(3) to any corporation, partnership, municipal corporation, or other public or private entity installing, altering or servicing electrical equipment owned by such entity, in the course of normal or emergency maintenance; provided that, all such work is supervised or administered by a licensed contractor employed by such entity. "Installing", as used herein, shall not apply to the construction of a new building or to the remodeling of an existing building, the cost of which remodeling exceeds 30% of the cost of a comparable new building.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

4. **APPLICATION FOR TESTING.** Any individual desiring a license as an electrical contractor in the City of Decatur shall make application on form provided by the Economic and Community Development Department, Building Inspections Division. This application shall then be presented to the City Electrical Commission to review.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2017-07, February 6, 2017)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2010-03, February 1, 2010)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2008-43, June 16, 2008)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2004-73, September 20, 2004)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2000-11, March 13, 2000)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 99-31, April 5, 1999)

5. **QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT.** Each applicant shall be at least 21 years of age and shall show proof of not less than four years practical experience in the field of electrical construction for power, light, and heat under the direction of a licensed electrician, or related work, or have satisfactorily completed an approved course in the particular subject in a recognized school. Such course shall be a minimum of four (4) years. Either or both qualifications shall be verified by the licensed contractor or school directly to the Electrical Commission at least two (2) weeks prior to the examination.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2008-43, June 16, 2008)

6. **EXAMINATION.** Once approval is granted by the Electrical Commission the applicant shall make arrangements on his own to take the "Standard Master Electrician" exam as

prepared and administered by the International Code Council National Contractor Trades Examination Program. Proof of a passing score will then be submitted to the Building Inspections Division in order to obtain a license.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2010-03, February 1, 2010)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2008-43, June 16, 2008)

7. **LICENSE FEE.** Licenses shall be issued annually for the period of January 1 through December 31 of the next succeeding year with an annual fee of \$100.00. Licenses fee shall be received before the 1st day of February renewal. Renewal means any person, firm or corporation having received a City of Decatur Electrical Contractor License as provided for in this Chapter has the right, without examination, to have that license renewed annually upon presentation of required documents and payment of license fee. If, however, the aforementioned license has not been renewed for one year or more then that person, firm, or corporation will be subject to requirements as provided in this Chapter for a new license applicant.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2009-65, September 8, 2009)

8. **REVOCAION OF LICENSE(S).** Licenses provided for herein may be suspended or revoked by the Commission for cause and after public hearing held upon reasonable notice to the licensee. Causes for revocation of license or suspension thereof include the following: (a) Repeated failure of a licensee to comply with the provisions of this Chapter or any reasonable direction of the Building Inspections Division; (b) repeated failures of the licensee to complete permitted jobs in a workmanlike manner; (c) transferring or loaning license to an unlicensed individual, that is, allowing an unlicensed individual to use license to obtain permits or perform work without being employed by a licensee; or (d) other just cause. No electrician having had a license revoked shall again be licensed except after re-examination and approval by the Commission and with the consent of the City Manager. Decisions of the Commission revoking

or suspending licenses may be appealed to the Decatur City Council, and such decision may only be reversed by said Council by the affirmative vote of five (5) or more members of the Council. Application for such appeal shall be submitted to the City Clerk within ten (10) days of the Commission's final decision.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2008-80, October 20, 2008)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 99-31, April 5, 1999)

9. **COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.** There is hereby created the Electrical Commission of the City of Decatur, Illinois which shall consist of seven (7) residents of the City to be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. To the extent practicably possible, the Commission shall include one (1) electrical contractor, one (1) licensed electrician, one (1) officer of Local IBEW, one (1) licensed professional engineer, one representative of an electrical utility, one (1) representative of an electrical product manufacturer and the Chief of the Decatur Fire Department or his representative; however, no action or decision of the Commission shall be invalid for failure to have on the Commission, or in attendance at the meeting or hearing whereat the action or decision was taken or made, any person meeting any of the criteria listed herein. Commission members shall serve for a term of three years, said terms to commence the first day of December. Vacancies shall be filled by the Mayor with advice and consent of the Council for the unexpired terms.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2005-15, March 7, 2005)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 99-31, April 5, 1999)

10. **RULES AND REGULATIONS.** The Commission shall meet and elect officers for each calendar year. A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and a Secretary shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The Commission shall meet on a regular basis as necessary to perform its duties, with the Chairperson reporting to the Mayor for consultation and guidance. The Commission

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shall review all applicants for testing, write or approve examinations for licensing, review all new Code changes, jointly with the Building Inspections Manager, prepare revisions to Chapter 69 (City Electrical Code) (excluding permit fees) and consult with the Building Inspections Manager and Electrical Inspectors. The Commission shall promulgate and adopt such necessary reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent with statute, code or ordinance as may be required to carry out the purposes and intent of this Chapter and its duties and responsibilities under the provisions hereof and shall keep a record of such rules and regulations along with the minutes of all its acts and doings.

(Amended, Ordinance No. 2010-03, February 1, 2010)

(Amended, Ordinance No. 99-31, April 5, 1999)

11. **SEVERABILITY.** If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter should be declared invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Chapter which shall remain in full force and effect and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared to be severable.

12. **PENALTY.** Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provision of this Chapter shall be fined not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense and every day that such violation continues may be deemed to be a separate offense. (Amended, Ordinance No. 2011-66, October 31, 2011)