

ELECTRICAL CODE ORDINANCE NUMBER 292

AN ORDINANCE for the Regulation and Inspection of the Installation of Electrical Work and Equipment in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, as follows:

Section No. 1.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

(a). There is hereby created the position of Electrical Inspector of Alexandria, Virginia, and said Electrical Inspector shall have general supervision of the enforcement of this Ordinance. To be eligible for appointments the Electrical Inspector must have had at least 5 years practical experience as an electrician, or at least four years practical experience if he is a graduate of an Accredited Electrical School. The position of Electrical Inspector of Alexandria, Virginia shall be filled by the City Manager as well as such other employees as may be necessary for the proper administration of this Ordinance, the salaries of such Inspector and other employees to be fixed by the Council. Before taking office such Electrical Inspector shall enter into bond with good and sufficient surety, in the amount of \$2,000.00, conditioned on the proper performance of his duties.

(b). No person, firm or corporation shall enter into, engage in, or work at the business of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes, either as master electrician or as journeyman electrician, unless such person, firm or corporation shall have received a registration card or certificate thereof, issued by the Electrical Board and in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth.

(c). The words "master electrician" as used in this Ordinance shall mean a corporation, firm or person, having a regular place of business, who, by the employment of journeymen, performs the work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures and other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes.

(d). The words "journeymen electricians" as used in this Ordinance shall mean a person doing any work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures and other appliances, for hire.

Section No. 2.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

(a). The Board of Examiners of Electricians, in this Ordinance hereinafter called the Electrical Board, may make necessary rules for the proper performance of their duties. They shall hold frequent examinations at the City Hall. Public notice shall be given of all examinations. They shall make an annual report of their doings to the City Manager.

(b). In the conduct of the examination, they shall make uniform requirements for all, which may be revised from time to time, as circumstances require. In this connection the Board shall give due consideration to the specialized branches of the Industry, such as radio, electrical signs, oil burners, motors, etc., and is authorized to issue cer-

tificates restricted to the specific field in which the applicant is qualified. No holder of such restricted Certificate "B" shall be eligible to work as a general journeyman until such general work is sanctioned, after another examination by the Electrical Board. Examinations shall be sufficiently frequent to afford ample opportunity for all applicants to be thoroughly and carefully examined, may be written or in practical work, and may be supervised by one or more of the examiners, but no registration card or certificate shall be granted without the sanction of the Electrical Board.

(c). The Electrical Board shall consist of a Board of five persons; the Electrical Inspector, by virtue of his office, appointed by the City Manager, and two Master Electricians, one journeyman electrician and one qualified Electrical Engineer employed by the local electric utility company, appointed by the Council for a term of four years, first term ending December 31, 1943, to serve without pay, but properly authorized expenses of the Board shall be paid.

Section No. 3.

REGISTRATION

(a). Two forms of registration shall be issued. The first, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate A" shall be known as "Master Electrician's Certificate" and the second hereinafter referred to as "Certificate B", shall be known as "Journeyman Electrician's Certificate."

(b). "Certificate A" shall be issued to any person, firm or corporation engaged in or about to engage in the business of installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures, and other electrical appliances qualified under this Ordinance. The certificate shall specify the name of the person, firm or corporation so applying.

(c). Applicants for "Certificate A" required under this Ordinance shall, before obtaining the same, give a bond payable to the City of Alexandria in the sum of One thousand dollars with surety approved by the Commonwealth's Attorney and conditioned to indemnify and save harmless the said City as well as any other person, from all expense and damage that may be caused by any negligent, defective, or inadequate work done in the said City under their certificate, and when any electrical work has been done by an electrical contractor, which shall be deemed defective or inadequate by the Electrical Inspector and the said contractor shall fail to revise or put said work in proper condition to the satisfaction of said Electrical Inspector within ten days after written notice from the Electrical Inspector so to do, the said bond shall be forfeited and the principal and surety on said bond shall IPSE FACTO be and become liable for, and shall pay so much on account, and in addition thereto, shall pay any and all damages which may be occasioned to any person by reason of such defective or inadequate work. This bond shall be deposited with the Treasurer of Alexandria, Virginia.

(d). All terms used in this Ordinance shall be considered as defined in the National Electric Code. No electrical work falling within the requirements of this Ordinance shall be done without first taking out permit to do same and making application with the Electrical Department, on forms provided for this purpose.

(e). No permit shall be less than one dollar in return for which it shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to make not more than

two inspections, permit to be issued at the Electrical Department, Alexandria City Hall Building. No electrical system or part thereof shall be covered until it has been inspected and approved. If any part of the electrical system is covered before being regularly inspected and approved as herein prescribed, it shall be uncovered at the direction of the Electrical Inspector. If the inspection shows defects, such defective work or material shall be replaced within ten days and inspection repeated. When work for which permit has been issued is completed, the inspector shall make a final inspection and if approved, shall certify this fact to the Electric Power Co. supplying the current. The person, firm or corporation securing a permit shall notify the Electrical Department in writing at least twelve hours prior to the time an inspection is required.

(f). Certificate "B" shall be granted to any person who has passed an examination before the Electrical Board. It shall specify the name of such person, who shall thereby be authorized to engage in the occupation of a journeyman electrician. Every holder of certificate "A" shall be entitled to one card, certificate "B", upon passing examination, without cost.

(g). Persons desiring certificate "B", who must have had at least three years experience as a journeyman electrician or helper, shall make written applications therefore, accompanied by the proper fee which shall be one dollar, but no fee shall be required for subsequent re-examination. In case of failure of an applicant, he shall be eligible for re-examination one month after failure, but if he fails at such re-examination, then he will be ineligible for examination until a further lapse of six months.

(h). Applicants for "Certificate A" shall be eligible to receive said Certificate upon the payment of the registration fee which shall be, six dollars for the first year, and five dollars for each renewal. The year shall be the City fiscal year; "Certificate B" shall be governed by the same conditions except the fee shall be one dollar each year.

(i). Certificate "A" and "B" may be renewed at any time within one month after their expiration, but if not renewed within this time, a re-examination will be required, according to Section No. 3, Paragraph g.

(j). Holders of "Certificate A" shall keep their certificate of registration displayed in a conspicuous place in their principal offices or places of business. Holders of "Certificate B" shall be furnished by the Examiners with evidence of having been so registered in card form or otherwise, which shall be carried on the person of the registered and exhibited on request.

(k). Any certificate expiring while the holder thereof is in the military or naval service of the United States shall be renewed without further examination, upon payment of the prescribed fee, at any time within four months after such person's discharge from the service.

(l). Examination papers and applications for Certificates shall be preserved for at least three years after which time they may, at the discretion of the examiners, be destroyed.

(m). Records of the meetings of the examiners shall be open for inspection at all times and they shall have printed annually a manual of their regulations, including the names of all registered.

(n). No certificate under this ordinance shall be assignable or trans-

ferable. It may, however, after hearing before the Electrical Board be revoked by the Board upon failure or request of the registered to comply with the rules and requirements of the Ordinance or for sufficient cause.

Section No. 4.

FEEES

The fees charged under these rules and regulations for the inspection of electric wiring, fixtures, apparatus, and appliance which shall be paid at the time permit is issued, are as follows:

(a). For the inspection of circuit wiring for all classes of electrical fixtures, apparatus, appliances, motors, signs, and devices within the scope of these rules and regulations: Six branch circuits or less, \$2.00. Each additional five branch circuits or fractional part thereof, in excess of six branch circuits, \$.75. Three-wire branch circuits will be considered the same as two two-wire circuits and will be charged for accordingly. No charge will be made for feeder circuits when installed in conjunction with branch circuits, but when installed without branch-circuit wiring the charge will be the same as that for branch circuits. When additional branch or feeder circuits are installed after the securing of permit, the fee for the work not covered by the original permit, will be the same as for an original installation.

(b). For the inspection of lighting fixtures, ceiling fans, fixed motors of $\frac{1}{4}$ horsepower or less and fixed heating devices or appliances of less than 1-kw. capacity which are not used jointly with other apparatus: Each twenty or fractional part thereof, \$1.00. Lamp sockets and lamp receptacles, not an actual part of fixtures and lamp sockets or receptacles on cords will, for the purpose of fixing the fee, be considered as individual lighting fixtures.

(c). For inspection of outline, decorative and trough lighting: Each 25 lights or fractional part thereof, \$1.00.

(d). For inspection of vacuum-tube lighting (not sign lighting) $\frac{1}{2}$ kw., \$1.00. Each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ kw., or fractional part thereof, \$.75.

(e). For inspection of arc lamps, vapor lamps and rectifier or rheostat charges for storage batteries: One, \$1.00. Each additional, \$.25.

(f). For inspection of motors, generators, motor generators, and rotary converters, not including wiring: $\frac{1}{3}$ to 3 Horsepower, inclusive: One, \$1.00. Each additional, \$.75. 4 to 50 Horsepower, inclusive: One, \$2.00. Each additional, \$1.00. 61 Horsepower and over: One, \$3.00. Each additional, \$1.50. Temporary motors, each motor, \$1.00.

(g). For inspection of fixed heating devices, cooking devices, electric welders, ovens and furnaces of over one kw.: One, \$2.00. Each additional, \$1.00. Note—A fixed device as applied to this rule is one which is obviously intended by size, weight, and service not to be frequently moved from place to place.

(h). For inspection of transformers including primary wiring in excess of 600 volts: \$2.00. Note—Bell ringing transformers of not over 25 watt capacity not included in the above.

(i). For inspection of outdoor electric signs: Each sign \$1.00. Note—See circuit fee under (a) of this rule. Electric signs inside buildings will be considered the same as electric fixtures and will be charged for as under (b) of this rule. No charge will be made for transformers used as part of sign equipment.

(j). For inspection of motion picture machines, stereopticon lamps, and arc spot lights: One, \$1.00. Each additional, \$.75.

(k). For inspection of X-Ray machines: One, \$1.00. Each additional, \$.75.

(l). For inspection of permanent wiring apparatus and fixtures for use pending completion of installation: Each inspection, \$1.00.

(m). For inspection of temporary wiring and for wiring for lawn fetes, but not for carnivals; 100 lights or less, \$2.00.

(n). For inspection of wiring: Motors and appliances for circus and carnivals, \$10.00.

(o). For inspection of wiring—For indoor exhibitions, expositions and the like: Areas of 3,000 sq. ft. or less, \$2.00.

(p). For inspection of radio transmitters: One, \$2.00. Each additional, \$1.00.

(q). Amplifiers for public address systems, sound moving pictures and the like: One, \$2.00. Each additional, \$1.00.

(r). The minimum fee charged for any inspection not covered by the foregoing scale, will not be less than \$1.00.

Fees and fines collected under this Ordinance shall be paid to the Treasurer of Alexandria City, Virginia.

Section No. 5.

PENALTIES

Any person, firm or corporation, or employee thereof, and any representative, member or officer of such firm or corporation, individually, entering upon or engaging in the business and work, hereinbefore defined, without first having complied with this Ordinance, shall for the first offense be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than three hundred dollars.

(a). Any person applying for a journeyman's "Certificate B" and making any mis-statements as to his experience or other qualifications, or any other person, firm or corporation, subscribing to or vouching for any mis-statement, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this section.

(b). Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the terms of this Ordinance shall be subject to the penalties set forth above.

Section No. 6.

EXCEPTIONS

This Ordinance shall not apply to the installation, repairing and wiring by public service plants, by electric railroad companies, in connection with the erection, construction, maintenance or repair of lines for transmission of electricity from the source of supply to the service switch on the premises where used; nor to work of such plants or companies on premises owned or controlled by them; nor to work of municipal electric plants or of said electric companies in installing, maintaining, and repairing on the premises of customers, service connections and meters and other apparatus and appliances after installation; nor to work in connection with the lighting of public ways, alleys; nor to the work of companies, maintaining or repairing wires, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances used by such companies and necessary for and incident to their business.

Section No. 7.

EMPLOYMENT OF APPRENTICES

(a). This Ordinance shall not forbid the employment of a learner or apprentice working with and under the direct personal supervision of a registered (B) electrician.

(b). Electricians employed by theatrical companies may install temporary wiring and appliances required for the purpose of the engagement of any such company, subject to the supervision of a person registered under this Ordinance.

(c). Electricians regularly employed by firms or corporations other than holders of "Certificate A" may install such electrical wiring, conduits and appliances or make such repairs as may be required only on the premises and property of such firms or corporations; provided that such electricians hold "Certificate B" and have complied with this Ordinance.

Section No. 8.

SPECIFICATIONS

(a). All electric work shall be done in the manner prescribed by the current edition of the Regulations of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, known as the "National Electrical Code", together with supplementary rules and regulations as may be issued from time to time by the Electrical Board, and approved by the City Council, copies of which supplementary rules shall be furnished all registered electricians by the Electrical Inspector, but any supplementary regulations shall be effective 30 days after approval by the Council.

(b). It shall be unlawful for any person or person's, firm or Corporation, their agents or employees, to use any material or appliances in connection with any electrical work done by them that has not been approved by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, nor shall any such person, firm or corporation make or in any other manner conceal any unsoldered joint in any electric light, heat or power unit, in or on any building or enclosure in this City, without the approval of the Electrical Inspector.

(c). It shall be unlawful except as herein provided, for any person or persons erecting any scaffolding, putting up any sign or signs, altering or changing any plumbing, repairing, painting, or erecting any building or structure or engaged in any manner of work, to cut, break or in any manner interfere with arrangements of any electric wires whatsoever, inside or outside of any building unless and until owner of said building or structure, or the contractor engaged in such work, shall notify the Electrical Inspector in writing of the necessity to do so at least twenty-four hours before such intended work is begun. It shall thereupon be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to inspect the place where such work is intended to be done, and if satisfied that it is necessary to do so, he shall at once direct the owner or owners of such wires to remove the same, and upon failing to do so, within twenty-four hours thereafter such wires may be removed by the contractor under the supervision of the Electrical Inspector.

(d). It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector at suitable intervals, and from time to time, to make an inspection of old electrical work in this City, and when defects are discovered in such work, to require the removal of the same, and the installation thereof to be brought up to a condition of safety within a reasonable time, the extreme limit not to exceed thirty days.

Section No. 9.

CONNECTING WITH SOURCE OF CURRENT

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to connect with a source of current or in any way use current in the wiring, fixtures or other electrical lines; or equipment falling within the scope of this Ordinance, until certificate of approval has been granted, for them to do so, by the Electrical Inspector.

Section No. 10.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

This Ordinance shall take effect on September 16, 1939.

RICHARD L. RUFFNER,
Mayor.