



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2007 Wisconsin Act 63**  
[2007 Senate Bill 167]

### **Electrical Codes; Regulation of Electricians and Electrical Contractors**

Major provisions of 2007 Wisconsin Act (the Act) include the following:

#### **Electrical Codes**

Under *prior law*, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) was directed to promulgate standards for electrical construction in public buildings, places of employment, and farm buildings. The *Act* directs Commerce to promulgate a state electrical code that applies to all types of buildings.

Under *prior law*, a municipality was authorized to adopt a local electrical code applicable to public buildings, places of employment, and farm buildings, provided the code was no less strict than the state code. The *Act* expands this authority to apply to all types of buildings, also.

#### **Regulation of Electricians and Electrical Contractors**

Under *prior law*, Commerce administered a voluntary certification program for master electricians, journeymen electricians, beginning electricians, and electrical contractors. The *Act* replaces this with a mandatory licensing, registration, and certification program. The *Act* provides a number of exemptions from the requirements of this program.

Under *prior law*, municipalities were authorized to regulate electrical contractors. The *Act* prohibits municipalities from imposing any registration, licensing, or certification requirements on electricians, electrical contractors, or electrical inspectors.

#### **Inspection of Electrical Construction**

Under *prior law*, Commerce was directed to promulgate rules regarding the inspection of electrical construction in public buildings, places of employment, and farm buildings, and certification

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

criteria for inspectors of public buildings and places of employment. The *Act* directs Commerce to expand the rules to apply to inspection of construction in and inspectors of all types of buildings.

Under *prior law*, municipalities were authorized to conduct inspections of electrical construction or contract with Commerce for certain inspections. In addition, Commerce was authorized to perform other electrical inspections under specified circumstances. The *Act* expands the scope of municipal inspection authority to cover all types of buildings and eliminates Commerce's role as an inspector of electrical construction.

***Effective Date:*** 2007 Wisconsin Act 63 takes effect on March 19, 2008, except that the licensing, registration, and certification program for electricians and electrical contractors takes effect on April 1, 2013.

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