

MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2022

TO: Transportation & Environment Committee

FROM: Livhu Ndou, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements

PURPOSE: Worksession #1 **Addendum**

We received the attached memorandum from the County Executive Office regarding Bill 12-22, in support of the amendment to remove “low voltage” contractors from the legislation. The memorandum is attached at © 1. Additionally, we received a joint industry letter in support of the legislation attached at © 2. This letter was provided by Telsa, SunPower and SunRun.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
County Executive Memorandum dated September 30, 2022	1
Joint Industry Letter	2



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive *Marc Elrich*

SUBJECT: Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements

In the original rewrite draft of Chapter 17, the comprehensive draft captures the significant changes brought about by the recent State assumption of the electrical licensing process, including deleting three current electrician license categories (master, master limited, and journeyman). The original rewrite draft submitted to the Council also included a county license for low voltage contractors.

After discussing with stakeholders and hearing the testimony before Council, I request that the Council amend the legislation to remove the low voltage contractors. I am hopeful the State will address this issue. However, the County should not move forward outside of the already defined structure at this time.

I appreciate the Council's willingness to continue working on this issue. Please let me know if my office can answer any questions or be of assistance.

cc: Mitra Pedoeem, Director, Department of Permitting Services
Ehsan Motazed, Deputy Director, Department of Permitting Services



September 21, 2022

Tom Hucker
Chair, Transportation and Environment Committee
Montgomery County District 5 Councilmember

Evan Glass
Member, Transportation and Environment Committee
Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

Hans Riemer
Member, Transportation and Environment Committee
Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large

Re: Bill 12-22, Electricity – Board of Electrical Examiners – Licenses – Permit Requirements

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers:

The following comments are provided on behalf of Tesla, Sunrun, and SunPower, which strongly support the adoption of Bill 12-22, specifically the provision that would allow for a third-party to review permit applications for simple residential rooftop solar projects to streamline the permitting process.

This proposal is critical because it would enable Montgomery County to streamline the permitting processes for standard residential solar systems and solar + storage systems by providing the Department of Permitting Services the direction to adopt the third-party software, SolarAPP+, which automates the review of residential solar system plans to ensure they are up to code and then automatically issues the permit for construction to begin.

Montgomery County stands to reap significant benefits from more clean energy in its community. Automatic and online systems, such as SolarAPP+, can produce 14 times more solar permits than traditional over-the-counter processes¹. Jurisdictions across the country have already “gone instant” and are a model for the rest of Maryland². Supportive policies like automated permitting can boost the number of households installing solar and storage systems, reduce municipal administrative costs, increase community resilience and make better use of government resources — all while contributing to the County’s 2035 goal to reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 100%.

¹ Based on the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Solar TRACE tool, 2021. Dataset: <https://solarapp.nrel.gov/solarTRACE>

² https://solarapp.nrel.gov/adoption_at_a_glance

Furthermore, Bill 12-22 would enable Montgomery County to act on the commitment made on July 22, 2021, when U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen publicly announced the County would pilot SolarAPP+.

For all of these reasons, the signatories of this letter encourage the Transportation and Environment Committee to recommend the enactment of Bill 12-22 during its October 3, 2022 Work session. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of September 2022 by:

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