

February 23, 1951.  
Judiciary No. 1.

**House File 521**  
By McNEAL.

Passed House, Date .....  
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....  
Passed Senate, Date.....  
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....  
Approved .....

## A BILL FOR

An Act to promote safety and eliminate fire hazards and to regulate the practice of electricians in the state of Iowa, and to provide for penalties for the violation thereof.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. Unlawful Practice. That it shall be un-  
2 lawful for any person to practice as an electrician in this  
3 State who shall not have complied with the provisions of  
4 this Act.

1 Section 2. Master Electrician. The term "master  
2 electrician" means a person having the necessary qualifi-  
3 cations, training, experience, and technical knowledge to  
4 properly plan, lay out, and supervise the installation of  
5 wiring, apparatus, and equipment for electric light, heat,  
6 power, and other purposes in accordance with the standard  
7 rules and regulations governing such work.

1 Section 3. Journeyman Electrician. The term  
2 "journeyman electrician" means a person having the neces-  
3 sary qualifications, training, experience, and technical

4 knowledge to wire for, install, and repair electrical  
5 apparatus and equipment in accordance with the standard  
6 rules and regulations governing such work.

1 Section 4. *Limited Electrician.* The term “limited  
2 electrician” means a person having the necessary qualifica-  
3 tions, training, and experience in wiring for, installing,  
4 or repairing special classes of electrical apparatus or  
5 equipment or for special classes of electrical wiring in-  
6 stallation; or making minor alterations, extensions, and  
7 repairs to existing electrical circuits on electrical in-  
8 stallations in towns, villages, or cities of the second  
9 class.

1 Section 5. *Electrical Contractor.* The term “electric-  
2 al contractor” means any person, firm, co-partnership, cor-  
3 poration, association or combination thereof, who undertakes  
4 or offers to undertake with another to plan for, lay out,  
5 supervise, and install or to make additions, alterations,  
6 and repairs in the installation of wiring apparatus and  
7 equipment for electric light, heat, and power for a fixed  
8 sum, fee, percentage or other compensation.

1 Section 6. *License Required.* Any person not holding  
2 an electrician’s license as required in this Act, and de-  
3 siring to enter such trade, shall, after meeting the other  
4 requirements in this Act, pass the examination required by  
5 said State Board of Electricity for the respective license  
6 desired.

1 Section 7. Existing Practitioners—Licenses. Any per-  
2 son who has practiced the profession of electrician as de-  
3 fined in this Act for a period of one year immediately pre-  
4 ceding the passage of this Act may be deemed eligible to  
5 registration and a license upon presentation to the Secre-  
6 tary of the Board of Electricity, which shall be hereinafter  
7 constituted, his sworn affidavit and affidavits of two rep-  
8 utable freeholders in his locality that he has so practiced,  
9 and payment of fees required under this Act, all such appli-  
10 cations to be made on or before December 31, 1951.

1 Section 8. State Board of Electricity. The State  
2 Board of Electricity shall consist of five members, residents  
3 of the State, appointed by the Governor, each for a term of  
4 four years, and until his successor is appointed and quali-  
5 fied; two shall be master electricians, who shall be con-  
6 tractors, one of whom shall be a master electrician in a  
7 city of the first class, and one of whom shall be a master  
8 electrician in a city of the second class or a town or  
9 village, two shall be journeyman electricians, and one shall  
10 be a fire insurance inspector. Vacancies shall be filled in  
11 the same manner from the same class which the retiring mem-  
12 ber belonged. The Board shall select from its members a  
13 President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and prescribe rules  
14 for the management of its affairs. Each member shall receive  
15 Twenty Dollars a day for actual services rendered and such  
16 necessary expenses as the Board may allow; in addition thereto

17 the Board may employ such help as in its judgment is neces-  
18 sary to carry out the purposes of this Act and may purchase  
19 office supplies, postage, printing, rent offices, and pur-  
20 chase such additional supplies or services as in its opinion  
21 are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; all to  
22 be paid out of the Treasury of the Board. The Board shall  
23 meet at least once a month and may meet at any other time  
24 at places designated by it, for the purpose of conducting  
25 examinations and transacting such other business necessary  
26 in the conduct of its affairs. Three members shall con-  
27 stitute a quorum of said Board. Two of the original members  
28 of said Board shall be appointed for a term of two years  
29 and three for a term of four years and the Governor shall  
30 designate the term of each appointee. Which terms shall  
31 commence July 1, 1949. Each member of the Board shall quali-  
32 fy by filing a bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars and  
33 the Secretary and the Treasurer, when chosen, shall each  
34 qualify by filing an additional bond in the sum of Five  
35 Thousand IDollars. Each and all of said bonds shall be filed  
36 with and approved by the Secretary of State.

1 Section 9. Fees—Use—Accounting. All fees collected  
2 under the provision of the Act shall be devoted only to the  
3 uses of the State Board of Electricity and the Board shall  
4 report to the Executive Council annually, on December 31, in  
5 writing, the items of its receipts and disbursements for the  
6 preceding year. The State Board of Electricity shall have

7 jurisdiction, and is hereby empowered to enforce the provisions  
8 contained in this Act. The receipts of the Board, as herein  
9 provided, shall be the only revenue received by said Board  
10 and no other funds shall be used or appropriated for carry-  
11 ing out any of the provisions of this Act.

1 Section 10. Inspection—Condemnation—Notice—Appeal.  
2 When called upon to inspect any electrical installation by  
3 the owner or tenant of the premises, by the utility which  
4 supplies the electrical energy to the premises, or by the  
5 contractor responsible for the installation, any electrical  
6 representative of the State Board of Electricity may do so  
7 during reasonable hours and may condemn installations which  
8 he deems to be hazardous to life or property and order ser-  
9 vice thereto disconnected. This action shall be taken after  
10 the owner of the premises has been notified in writing, sub-  
11 ject to the right of appeal to the State Board of Electricity,  
12 within ten days from the date of filing of the report with  
13 the Board. No installation which has been so condemned  
14 shall be reconnected for service until it has been brought  
15 up to the required standards and proof thereof furnished to  
16 the State Board of Electricity. The Board may charge a fee  
17 sufficient to defray the cost of inspection to be paid by the  
18 person, firm, or corporation requesting the inspection.

1 Section 11. Reciprocity. To the extent that other  
2 States which provide for the licensing of electricians pro-  
3 vide for similar action, the State Board of Electricity may

4 grant licenses of the same grade or class to electricians  
5 licensed by other States, upon payment by the applicant of  
6 the required fee, after being furnished with proof that the  
7 qualifications of the applicant are equal to the qualifica-  
8 tions of holders of similar licenses in Iowa.

1 Section 12. Electrical Contractor License. No person  
2 shall operate as an electrical contractor unless he be li-  
3 censed as a master electrician, or have in his employ a li-  
4 censed master electrician. No individual, firm, copartner-  
5 ship, or corporation shall engage in business as electrical  
6 contractors unless they have a licensed master electrician  
7 in their employ.

1 Section 13. Journeyman—Limited Electrician Licenses.  
2 No person shall work as a journeyman or limited electrician  
3 unless he be licensed as such by the State Board of Electricity.

1 Section 14. Bond—Master Electrician. Every master  
2 electrician shall, before receiving license as such, give  
3 bond to the State in the penal sum of One Thousand Dollars,  
4 which bond shall be approved by, and filed with, the State  
5 Board of Electricity. This bond is to be conditioned upon  
6 the faithful performance of all work entered upon or con-  
7 tracted for by the master.

1 Section 15. Qualifications Licensing—Master Electri-  
2 cians. An applicant for a master electrician's license shall  
3 furnish written evidence that he is a graduate of a four-  
4 year electrical course of an accredited university or col-

5 lege; or that he is a graduate of an electrical trade school  
6 approved by the State Board of Electricity and has had at  
7 least three years of practical experience in electrical  
8 work; or that he has had at least five years of experience  
9 in planning, laying out, supervising, or installing wiring,  
10 apparatus, or equipment for electric light, heat, and power;  
11 and shall pay an examination fee of Ten Dollars.

1 Section 16. Qualifications Licensing—Journeyman  
2 Electricians. An applicant for a journeyman electrician's  
3 license shall furnish evidence, in writing, that he has had  
4 at least four years experience in wiring, installing, and  
5 repairing electrical appartus and equipment for light, heat,  
6 or power; and shall pay an examination fee of Five Dollars.

1 Section 17. Qualifications Licensing—Limited Electri-  
2 cian. An applicant for a limited electrician's license shall  
3 furnish evidence, in writing, that he has had at least two  
4 years experience in some special class of electrical work;  
5 and shall pay an examination fee of Five Dollars. Such spe-  
6 cial class of electrical work shall be specified on his li-  
7 cense.

1 Section 18. License Fees. Every applicant for a master  
2 electrician's license who passes the examination shall pay an  
3 additional fee of Twenty-five Dollars before such license  
4 is issued, which fee shall keep his license in force for one  
5 year; and shall pay a renewal fee of Twenty-five Dollars  
6 each year. Every applicant for a journeyman electrician's

7 license who passes the examination shall pay an additional  
8 fee of Ten Dollars before such license is issued, which fee  
9 shall keep his license in force for one year; and shall pay  
10 a renewal fee of Ten Dollars each year. Every applicant for  
11 a limited electrician's license who passes the examination  
12 shall pay an additional fee of Five Dollars before such li-  
13 cense is issued, which shall keep his license in force for  
14 one year, and shall pay a renewal fee of Five Dollars each  
15 year.

1 Section 19. Examination After Failure to Renew Li-  
2 cense—Apprentices. If a licensee shall fail to renew his  
3 license for a period of two years or more after its expira-  
4 tion, such person shall be required by the Board to again  
5 take the examination. All examination and license fees shall  
6 be paid to the Treasurer of the State Board of Electricity  
7 and shall be for the use of the Board to carry out the pro-  
8 visions of the Act. Any person may work as an apprentice  
9 to a licensed electrician, but shall not do any electrical  
10 wiring for or installing electrical apparatus, or equipment  
11 for light, heat, or power, except with a licensed electrician.

1 Section 20. Employees Excepted. Employees of public  
2 service corporations or municipal utilities distributing or  
3 selling electrical energy for light, heat, or power for operat-  
4 ing street railway systems, or telephone or telegraph systems,  
5 shall not be required to hold licenses while doing electrical  
6 work on, or in connection with, property owned, leased, or

7 operated by any such municipality or corporation. The rules  
8 and regulations of the commerce commission, the commissioner  
9 of insurance, the state fire marshal and the industrial com-  
10 missioner and all local municipal ordinances governing such  
11 work shall be observed.

1 Section 21. Second Examination. Any applicant who shall  
2 fail to pass the examination shall not be entitled to take  
3 another examination until such time as the Board may designate,  
4 except that he may take an examination for a lesser grade.

1 Section 22. Revocation of License—Hearing—Appeal.  
2 Upon written complaint against any licensed electrician the  
3 Board shall hold a hearing, written notice of which shall be  
4 given to the complainant and to such licensed electrician at  
5 least ten days in advance of such hearing. After hearing the  
6 evidence of both parties, the Board shall have the power to  
7 revoke or suspend such license, subject to appeal to the Dis-  
8 trict Court of the State of Iowa.

1 Section 23. Inspection by Political Subdivision Au-  
2 thorities. The governing body of any political subdivision  
3 of the State may, by ordinance or resolution, make provisions  
4 for inspection of all electrical installations within its  
5 jurisdiction. Electrical inspectors appointed by any such  
6 body must have a license as a master electrician or journey-  
7 man electrician as provided in this Act. No electrical  
8 inspector shall engage in the business of the sale, installa-  
9 tion, or maintenance of electric wiring devices, appliances,

10 or equipment, and shall have no financial interest in any  
11 concern engaged in such business within the subdivision for  
12 which he is appointed.

1 Section 24. Standards—Rules—Regulations. All elec-  
2 trical wiring, apparatus, and equipment for electric light,  
3 heat, and power shall comply with the rules and regulations  
4 of the commerce commission, the commissioner of insurance,  
5 the state fire marshal and the industrial commissioner,  
6 under the authority of the State statutes and in conformity  
7 with approved methods of construction for safety to life and  
8 property. The regulations as laid down in the National  
9 Electrical Code as approved by the American Standards Associa-  
10 tion, and in the National Electrical Safety Code as issued  
11 by the United States Bureau of Standards, shall be prima  
12 facie evidence of such approved methods; provided, that noth-  
13 ing herein contained shall prohibit any municipality from  
14 making and enforcing more stringent requirements, than those  
15 set forth herein, and that such requirements shall be com-  
16 plied with by all licensed electricians working within the  
17 jurisdiction of such municipalities.

1 Section 25. Compliance—Installation—Inspection—  
2 Penalty—Injunction. No electrical installation shall be  
3 connected for use until proof has been furnished to the  
4 person, firm, or corporation supplying electrical energy  
5 for such installation that the regulations above recited  
6 have been complied with. Proof of such compliance shall

7 consist of a certificate furnished by a municipal or other  
8 recognized inspection department or officer; or, if there  
9 is no such inspection department or officer, it shall con-  
10 sist of an affidavit furnished by the contractor or other  
11 person doing the wiring, certifying that there has been such  
12 compliance. For transient projects requiring temporary  
13 electrical service or for projects in process of construc-  
14 tion, the person, firm, or corporations furnishing electric  
15 current shall not be required to obtain a certificate of  
16 inspection or an affidavit of compliance with the require-  
17 ments above stated, until completion of the projects. Any  
18 person who shall perform any services for another in install-  
19 ing or repairing electrical wires or apparatus without hav-  
20 ing complied with the provisions of this Act, or having  
21 failed to register and procure a proper license, or who  
22 violates any provision of this Act is guilty of a misdemeanor  
23 and may be prohibited from future violation thereof by in-  
24 junction. This Act, however, shall not be construed or ad-  
25 ministered so as to prevent any individual from connecting  
26 or installing any wires or electrical equipment upon any prop-  
27 erty owned or occupied by an individual.

1 Section 26. Saving Clause. Should any section, clause,  
2 sentence, or provision of this Act be held to be invalid for  
3 any reason, such holding or decree shall not be construed  
4 as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions  
5 of this Act, it being the intent of the Legislature that this

6 Act shall stand and the Legislature would have adopted the  
7 remainder of this Act, notwithstanding the invalidity of any  
8 such section, clause, sentence, or provision.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 521

This bill, in line with thirteen other states sets up standards for electricians and electrical installations.

The purpose of the bill is to eliminate haphazard installations which have taken a large toll in lives and property through fires caused by poor electrical work.