



May 5, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8140
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: AB 1707 (Davies) – Electrician Certification – SUPPORT (As Introduced 2/4/2026)

Assemblymember Wicks:

Associated Builders and Contractors of California (ABC CA) is a statewide organization representing working Californians in carpentry, construction, construction craft laborer, electrical, low voltage, painting, plumbing, pipefitting, and sheet metal who are building commercial, industrial and affordable housing projects, and we write to express our enthusiastic support of AB 1707 (Davies). This measure modernizes and improves California's electrician certification system by removing unnecessary barriers, increasing efficiency, and supporting workforce entry and mobility.

Existing law requires the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) to maintain high standards for competency and training for electricians through a system of examinations and certifications. While many government processes have been brought into the digital age, the DLSE continues to require electricians to do most of this process through physical paper forms, paper checks, and snail mail.

This outdated system creates unnecessary delays in certification and recertification for qualified electricians due solely to administrative inefficiencies. A misfiled form or a check lost in the mail can hold up a certification for weeks. These delays can prevent new electricians from entering the workforce and interrupt the ability of existing electricians to work legally.

AB 1707 also allows individuals who fail the certification exam to retake it immediately at the next available appointment, rather than waiting extended periods. The waiting period after a failed examination is unnecessarily punitive and does nothing to ensure an electrician's qualification. If a candidate is capable of passing an examination, they should be allowed to at the next available opportunity.

Removing these barriers reduces bottlenecks that delay entry into good-paying electrical careers and helps address ongoing workforce shortages in construction and skilled trades. Electricians are essential to construction, and shortages can delay projects at critical stages, increasing costs and constraining housing supply.

AB 1707 will bring the electrician certification system in line with modern workforce practices by reducing paperwork, processing delays, and administrative costs. These updates will support workforce entry and ensure qualified electricians can continue working without interruption.

For these reasons, we support AB 1707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gutierrez", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Greg Gutierrez
Chair of the Board