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Information Regarding Electrical Wiring of Medical Marijuana Facilities

This document is in response to the many questions and concerns received by the State Electrical Inspectors concerning the wiring of medical marijuana facilities (grow facilities). This is not a “how to” document. This document is meant to inform the public, medical marijuana growers and licensees of the Electricians’ Examining Board (licensed electricians) about State laws and rules pertaining to grow facilities. These laws and rules apply to all business/commercial entities including grow facilities. **There are no new laws or interpretations here.**

Any person growing for him/herself may only wire a grow facility in that person’s own single family dwelling provided the person owns and occupies that single family dwelling and it is used solely as a single family dwelling. That person may or may not be required to obtain an electrical permit from a local municipality. Owners of grow facilities should check with the town or city to see whether an electrical permit is required. Please be responsible! There is a lot of electricity involved even in a small grow facility. The potential for fire and/or electrocution is definitely present if the wiring is not done correctly. If you have no wiring experience, please hire a licensed master or limited to house wiring electrician to wire a personal medical marijuana facility in your home.

Any marijuana caregiver grow facility, regardless of where it is located, requires an electrical permit for that electrical installation from a town, city or the state, whichever entity has jurisdiction. Even in a single family home or an accessory building associated with a single family home, a caregiver facility must be wired by a licensed master electrician and a permit must be obtained. Again, this is not a new requirement. A barbershop or beauty shop in a single family *home* has historically required a permit. In anticipation of questions on this point, the applicable laws are listed below.

- State law that requires all wiring be done by an electrician (32 M.R.S. § 1201).
- Single family dwelling may be wired by a homeowner under certain conditions (32 M.R.S. § 1105).
- Permits are required (32 M.R.S. § 1102-B) for electrical installations with certain exceptions (32 M.R.S. § 1102-B(5)). A medical marijuana grow facility is not a manufacturing facility.
- The National Electrical Code defines a one family dwelling as: “A building that consists solely of one dwelling unit.” NFPA 70 Article 100.

If you have questions, please call or email. Contact information is below.

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