

- SUBJECT:** Regulating the journeyman lineman license and examination
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Smith, Gutierrez, Geren, Goldman, Guillen, Kuempel, D. Miller, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Miles
- WITNESSES:** For — Michael Mosteit, Texas State Association of Electrical Workers IBEW; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Walt Baum, Association of Electric Companies of Texas (AECT); Rick Levy, Texas AFLCIO, Texas State Association of Electrical Workers IBEW)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas)
- On — Thomas Monaco, Independent Electrical Contractors of Texas (IEC of Texas); (*Registered, but did not testify*: Renea Beasley, Independent Electrical Contractors of Texas (IEC of Texas); Brian Francis, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)
- BACKGROUND:** Under Occupations Code, sec. 1305.002, "journeyman lineman" means an individual who engages in electrical work involving the maintenance and operation of equipment associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity from the electricity's original source to a substation for further distribution.
- Journeyman lineman license holders currently can work with power lines and other electricity sources that do not involve electricity past the point of entry into a structure, such as a residential home, but the definition does not specify this.

DIGEST: CSHB 3043 would specify that a journeyman lineman's work included the installation of equipment used to distribute electricity. This work also would include electricity from the original source to the point where the electricity entered a building or structure.

The bill would require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to establish a journeyman lineman examination to test an applicant's knowledge of materials and methods used in the journeyman lineman's work and the standards prescribed by the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation. The commission or the executive director of TDLR would be required to adopt the revised National Engineering Safety Code after it was published every five years for the use in the journeyman lineman's examination. The bill would require the commission to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill by March 1, 2016.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, and would apply only to an examination for a journeyman lineman license administered on or after June 1, 2016.