



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1316, **Agenda Item #:** 50.

2/20/2020

Posting Language

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 of City Code Chapter 25-12 to adopt the 2020 National Electrical Code and local amendments. (Suggested date: Thursday, April 9, 2020, at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas)

Lead Department

Development Services Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

September 28, 2017 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20170928-094 adopting the 2017 National Electrical Code and related local amendments on Council Member Casar's motion, Council Member Pool's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Troxclair was absent.

For More Information:

Martin Starrett, Commercial Electrical Inspections Supervisor, 512-974-3488; Eric Zimmerman, Residential Electrical Inspections Supervisor, 512-974-2729

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 15, 2020 - Adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code and related local amendments recommended by the Electrical Board on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Wallace was absent. Recommendation Number 20200115-3a

Additional Backup Information:

The National Electrical Code provides a national standard for electrical installations associated with residential, commercial and industrial buildings and structures. The proposed ordinance establishes amendments to address local installations, complies with state law, and is consistent with the State Electrical Law and the State's adopted National Electrical Code.

Significant changes for the adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code include:

- Section 210.8 GFCI Protection has now been expanded to include 250-volt receptacles in dwelling units and food preparation areas of non-dwelling units.
- New Section 230.67 has been added to require a surge protection device be installed for all dwelling unit services.
- The lighting load table in Section 220.12 has been revised to follow the maximum permitted lighting loads as specified by current Energy Codes.
- Tamper resistant receptacle requirements have been expanded in Section 406.12 to include common areas of apartments, hotels and motels and added for assisted living facilities.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Reinstates the Contractor Registration Requirements that were removed in the 2017 Local

Amendments as recommended by the Electrical Board.

- Expands the types of violations to include the expiration of more than five permits in a year.
- Deletes prior local amendments that were more stringent than the National Electrical Code.