

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	37114	Agenda Number	176.
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Meeting Date:	11/20/2014	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 (Electrical Code) of Chapter 25-12 of the City Code to adopt the 2014 National Electrical Code, and adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	October 20, 2011 – Council adopted the 2011 Electrical Code with local amendments. June 6, 2013 – Council approved amendments related to requirements for registration, inspection, supervision, and suspension.
For More Information:	Carl Thompson, (512) 974-2887; Jose Roig, (512) 974-9754.
Boards and Commission Action:	July 30, 2014 – Approved by the Electric Board on a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Walden absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

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, and to comply with the State Electrical Law and the State’s adopted National Electrical Code.

Highlights for the adoption of the 2014 National Electrical Code include:

- Additional residential safety requirements for the use of ground-fault, and arc-fault protection.
- Residential garages will require one receptacle for each car space.
- New language specific to circuits when an outlet is installed for electric vehicle charging systems.
- An exception will allow lighting loads to be calculated per the adopted energy code.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Several sections that were more stringent than the National Electrical Code have been deleted.
- Currently the Special Inspection Program has a maximum job evaluation of \$2,000.00. This value has been removed, allowing more projects to qualify for the Special Inspection Program.
- Language has been added or deleted in several Sections to clarify the Code's intent.

These changes in the Local Amendments have a positive impact on housing affordability by reducing construction costs. These changes result from adopting the 2014 National Electrical Code, as required under State law.