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Advisory regarding how to rectify electrical installations completed without  
required permits and inspections

Issued December 21, 2020

The following advisory was voted to be issued by the Board of State Examiners of Electricians ("Board") at its regular meeting held on December 21, 2020.

On October 26, 2020, the Board issued an advisory reminding inspectors of their inability to approve unpermitted/uninspected electrical work. A question has arisen as to whether or not, upon discovering such work, a property owner is required to fully remove said work to obtain approval of an inspector of wires. The answer to this question is not necessarily. The Board advises the owner that the proper course of action would be as follows:

1. Obtain the services of a properly licensed electrician.
2. Have that electrician review all the previously unpermitted/inspected electrical work. If said work is concealed, it must be uncovered or removed.
3. Have that electrician pull a permit for this work.
4. Have the electrician ensure all work complies with the Massachusetts Electrical Code as the electrician is taking responsibility for that work; and
5. Have the electrician call for an inspection with the local inspector of wires, who can then inspect and (if done correctly) approve that work in the normal course.