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On July 23rd, 2018 at the monthly board meeting for the Board of State Examiners of Electricians, the Board, the Interpretation Subcommittee proposed the following to be adopted by the full board. The Board unanimously ratified the proposal.

Thermostats are devices which control heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment by utilizing a thermometer that triggers electrical switches which activate or deactivate the equipment to maintain temperature at a specified level. As such, these devices are governed by the licensure requirements of M.G.L. C. 141, 1A. They are not stand-alone, rather they are component parts of an HVAC System. HVAC Systems have many components requiring overcurrent protection due to design and construction. Accordingly, HVAC systems cannot be construed as inherently power limited systems as defined in M.G.L. C. 141, 1. Due to this limitation, the only individuals able to legally install thermostats in Massachusetts are licensed journeyman electricians. However, in light of licensed systems technician's extensive qualifications, the Board will allow a licensed Systems Technician, without altering the wiring or other settings, to remove a thermostat installed by a journeyman electrician and preplace it with a "smart" thermostat which can wirelessly connect with a security or fire warning system installed by the licensed Systems Technician. Thermostat replacements, as well as any security or fire warning system being installed, shall be subject to the permitting requirements of M.G.L. c. 143 3L and 237 CMR 18.01(4).

