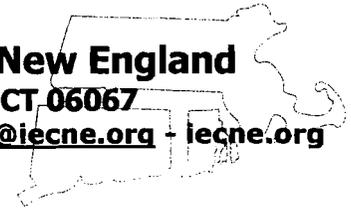




Independent Electrical Contractors of New England

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TO: The Honorable Andrew McDonald and Rep. Mike Lawlor
Co-Chairs, Judiciary Committee
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Mary Ellen Dombrowski, Executive Director

DATE: March 24, 2006

RE: S. B. No. 673 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN WORK FOR WHICH AN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE IS REQUIRED.

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) *supports* SB-673, which will protect consumers by imposing a criminal penalty on those who engage in plumbing, electrical or solar work, heating, piping, cooling and sheet metal work, fire protection sprinkler systems work, elevator installation, repair and maintenance work, irrigation work, automotive glass work or flat glass work without a required permit, license or certificate. This bill will increase the state's enforcement powers against individuals who repeatedly work without required licenses and defraud consumers.

We believe contractors who have unlicensed "illegal" workers perform work requiring a license or registration should be punished. The current penalty of \$200 is simply not a sufficient deterrent. These contractors are not abiding by the regulations that govern their trade; they create potentially unsafe work environments and possible danger for the party for whom the work is being performed. They are also unfairly treating the unlicensed employee by cheating them out of the necessary training time required to obtain a license.

Contractors that do not abide by the licensing laws hurt every facet of their industry and they must be stopped. We respectfully request you vote in favor of SB-673.

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.