

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 16, 2009

HB6375 AAC Review and Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of the committee my name is Cameron Champlin and I represent the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. We are opposed to the termination of the occupational Licensing Boards which have been in existence for over forty years. These boards are included in Section 1 (3), (39), (55), (56), (57), (58), and (61). When these boards were created the goal was to protect the general public from people who lacked the proper training and ability to perform certain tasks in the course of construction of every type of building in this state. The personnel on these boards were selected to ensure a fair representation of contractors and journeymen as well as public members. I have served on the Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal Board for over twenty years. Our board was originally comprised of three contractors, three journeymen and three members of the public. Since that time a Sheet Metal License has been instituted and three more members have been appointed to the board.

In the past we have handled complaints from members of the public concerning faulty workmanship, contracts that were not honored for reasons ranging from non completion to just collecting an initial payment and never returning to perform the work. In many of these cases without the knowledge that the board members possess there would be no way of deciding if there was in fact an installation that wasn't installed according to industry standards. We also decide if a person that has not completed an apprenticeship in the State of Connecticut but has worked at the trade in another state or in a facility where a license is not required has acquired enough knowledge to be allowed to take a license exam. In many cases we listen to complaints from people who were never registered as apprentices and yet their employer had them performing tasks that did require either a licensed person or a registered apprentice.

These boards are an asset to the State of Connecticut, its citizens and the Department of Consumer Protection. The members receive no payment for their service other than a mileage reimbursement which is whatever the rate the state sets for this.

The board that I serve on meets every other month as most other boards do. You can see that these boards are not a big expense to the state. For these reasons we urge you to delete these sections from the bill.

If further information is needed you may contact me at (860) 287-0020 or email camc@att.net. Thank you for considering my testimony while contemplating your decision on this very important matter.