

To all the members of the General Law Committee,

My name is Robert Woytowich a Connecticut Licensed Electrician who works for the IBEW doing compliance work on public projects in our State. I hope to get your support on House Bill #5220. "An Act Concerning The Enforcement of Certain Professional and Occupational Licensing, Certification and Registration Laws".

I feel this law would be of great benefit to the State of Connecticut and to the Department of Consumer Protection. The occupational trades unit is understaffed and overburdened. There are only three (3) investigators who check licensing on every construction job in the State. Because of this every building trades group has compliance groups who check many jobsites for licensing law violations. Collectively, over one million dollars a year is spent on this endeavor at no cost to taxpayers. Our jobs are to find violations, compile the information and then send a completed complaint with proof to the Department of Consumer Protection. Over the years this system proved to work well once the complaints were sent to the individual licensing boards, that is until the adoption of Bill 6983 in 2007.

It seems that only cases of unregistered apprenticeship hours are being heard. Many law violations go unpunished and are not dealt with according to the law. This system lets the unscrupulous contractors to keep on breaking the law. Almost every public job I check has people doing electrical work with no training or license. This becomes a life safety issue for the individual and the public. There have been Freedom of Information requests sent to the Department of Consumer Protection for information on the contractors who have been fined and charged with a Class B misdemeanor, so far I have not received one back. The commissioner and his staff need the help of the boards who volunteer there time in service to the State and who are also appointed by the Governor and they know the construction industry.

Also, in this economic time our State needs all the funding it can get. We believe many law violations are going by the wayside which are all fineable offenses that should be going into the general fund. Again, I ask for your support of HB 5220.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Woytowich