



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

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**SEAN W. DALY**  
REPRESENTATIVE

Senators Harp and Debicella, Representatives Geragosian and Miner, we would like to submit written testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in opposition to the proposal within the Governors budget to eliminate the Electrical Work Examining Board (the Board).

The IBEW feels the Board is an integral piece of the process when it comes to enforcement and oversight of electrical licensing and certification laws. The Board is comprised of those in the industry who are considered experts in the field and therefore most qualified to be the decision makers when it comes to discipline of the workers and employers.

If the Board were to be wiped out completely, it would leave all responsibility in the hands of the Department of Consumer Protection. The IBEW feels this is of great concern. On the one hand, the Department does not have enough staff to handle the increased workload it would require, which we feel would jeopardize the effectiveness of the enforcement process. Secondly, as was previously mentioned, members of the Board are those who are the most knowledgeable about the nature of the industry, and are most qualified to determine when an individual is deserving of punishment.

The IBEW feels this is most importantly an issue of life safety and quality. If the Boards are eliminated, we could not feel confident that occupational licensing laws would be enforced in a strict manner. As it stands, we have issues with recent changes to the law which provided to the Commissioner more authority over the process, leaving the Boards worried that the integrity of the industry is at risk. If the Examining Boards are acknowledged and included in the disciplinary process, we can feel confident offenders will receive suitable penalties, and the safety, quality and security of our industry will remain in tact, as will the safety of the public.

Lastly, in a time of budget crisis, it would be ineffective to dissolve a board or boards that create revenue for the state by means of issuing fines. All the Board's members are volunteers and do not receive a paycheck.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hilary Felton-Reid

**IBEW**