

**Government Administration & Elections Committee  
Public Hearing – Monday, March 16, 2009 – Room 2B**

**Re: HB 6375 – AAC Review and Termination of Certain Boards and Commissions**

**Testimony submitted by: Joyce A. Wojtas, Mechanical Contractors Association of CT  
Position: Opposed to Sec. 1, subsections (3) (55) (56) (57) (58) (61)**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the committee. My name is Joyce Wojtas and I am the lobbyist for the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut (MCAC) and Local 777.

The MCAC would like to go on record in opposition to the elimination of the Plumbing and Piping Work Board and the Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal Work Board established under section 20-330 of the CT General Statutes and echo the remarks of Hubert Barnes of Local 777. We also oppose elimination of the electrical work, fire protection sprinkler systems and elevator installation boards along with the newly created Employee Misclassification Advisory Board.

The statement of purpose in this bill states: "TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS AND ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY OR OBSOLETE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS".

That is a pretty harsh statement about volunteers---- who are experts in their field ----- who take the time and make the effort to do what is right to protect the citizens of this state when it comes to the training and retraining of people in the licensed trades.

These occupational licensing boards, for the most part, were established in 1967. So, most of the boards have been in existence for almost 50 years. Along comes a budget deficit and out the window goes the oversight of the entire occupational licensing division at the Department of Consumer Protection, even though any savings realized by this "roll of the dice" about who goes and who stays will be minimal at best.

This bill effectively eliminates these boards "effective from passage" and officially terminates them on October 1, 2009 "unless reestablished according to section 2c-10 of the CT Sunset Law." We all know that there will be no time to "re-establish these boards", so if this bill passes, these boards will be gone.

The preamble to the Sunset Law states "The General Assembly further finds that there is a need for periodic comprehensive review of certain entities and programs, and for the termination or modification of those which do not significantly benefit the public health, safety, or welfare".

The experienced, volunteer Plumbing & Piping Work Board, Heating, Piping, Cooling & Sheet Metal Work Board, Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Board, Electrical Work Board and Elevator Installation Board all help significantly in benefiting the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this State. I don't think there is any other state that does not have some type of oversight and participation by the licensed trades. Their expertise is invaluable and vital to help prevent activity that can endanger lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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