



**Independent Electrical Contractors  
of New England, Inc.**



**TESTIMONY  
INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS OF NEW ENGLAND  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

**RE: SB-788, AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BUILDING CODE BE REVISED TO  
INCORPORATE REVISIONS TO THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) strongly **urges support for SB-788, An Act Requiring the State Building Code be Revised to Incorporate Revisions to the National Electrical Code.**

This bill promotes electrical safety by requiring the state to adopt the updated National Electrical Code in a timely manner rather than skipping adoption for several years as is currently the practice.

The National Electric Code is the most authoritative and comprehensive document on electrical safety. The Code addresses safety issues ranging from fire to electrocution. It is adopted and created through a series of panel discussions across the country with the input of the people in the industry. It is revised every three years to reflect new technologies, improved installation and safety practices and critical safeguards for consumers and people that work in the industry.

Unfortunately, the state has indicated that it will not yet begin the process of adopting the 2008 National Electrical Code. This has been a problem in the past, as well. In addition to failing to incorporate changes that are intended to update safety practices for workers and consumers, this creates a disconnect between the code that is used in the field for enforcement purposes and the code that is used to train apprentices and test electrical license applicants.

Recognizing this, on February 15, 2008, the Electrical Work Examining Board voted to unanimously support legislation to automatically adopt the NEC on a regular basis. The board's and our industry's concerns have been and remains that the state technical schools educate to the latest code (2008) and that the Electrical Board tests to the latest published code. Since obtaining previous editions of the code books is nearly impossible, at best, the latest edition is always taught to the apprentices and the license test is based on the same.

Not surprisingly, this results in tremendous confusion in the field and with training. This is clearly a safety issue for the consumers in the state of Connecticut. SB-788 addresses these concerns by requiring the state to adopt the National Electrical Code on a regular basis. **We therefore urge your support.**