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Senate Bill 291, An Act Concerning Crane Operations
Public Safety and Security Committee
March 4, 2014

The Utility Contractors Association of Connecticut represents contractors, suppliers and vendors in the utility and site work construction industry in Connecticut. UCAC contractor members perform work to improve and enhance the utility infrastructure in the state. Additionally, UCAC members who set trench boxes or deep pipe and pump stations while using cranes, for example, would be subject to the crane licensing requirements.

Senate Bill 291, An Act Concerning Crane Operations, would repeal certain provisions adopted in 2012 in Public Act 12-99. Public Act 12-99 made several changes in the laws governing cranes and hoisting equipment to comply with new federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. Many of its provisions codified current state regulations and were to become effective October 1, 2014. Public Act 12-99 expanded the types of equipment and operators subject to state regulation, including operator licensing and training, and the scope of the state safety code for operating and maintaining cranes and hoisting equipment.

Since OSHA is seeking to delay implementation of its standards, and may make some modifications to the Final Rule, the Department of Administrative Services explains in support of the bill, Connecticut should follow suit and delay implementation of its conforming statutes and processes. As a result, the bill seeks to delay implementation of the provisions of PA 12-99 until October 1, 2017.

Additionally, the amendments will allow the Crane Operators Examining Board and other private testing entities to hold off on any testing and practical examination changes relating to cranes and hoisting equipment until it is clearer what OSHA's Final Rule includes.

UCAC supports the delay in implementation of the new law until October 1, 2017, when OSHA and the state are prepared to enforce the new rules, and construction contractors and the industry will be better prepared to absorb the changes.

For additional information or any questions concerning Senate Bill 291, please contact Matthew Hallisey, Executive Director of UCAC, at 860-978-7346.