

I would like to thank the Committee for reconsidering the language on the original bill that was revised submitted and passed as Public act 14-210.

The original language was developed by a partnership of Union and Non Union licensed crafts and was intended to level the playing field for responsible contractors and licensed tradesmen.

As a holder of three state licenses with 32 years in the trades, as a member of the Heating and Cooling Board and as a Business Agent for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union representing 2,800 members I have seen the results of lax enforcement of our state statutes.

Licensed Tradesmen that have done the right things like served an Apprenticeship, Passed their State license examinations and other State Certifications and continue to pay the fees for them, have been or are unemployed while others that have not Licensed are employed and performing the work. Contractors that do the right things like employ Licensed Tradesmen and registered Apprentices are forced to bid for work against Contractors that don't go by the rules. Typically, If a Contractor is not following Licensing rules they may also be breaking other laws on things like workers compensation, Social Security, State Taxes, unemployment insurance Ect. This provides an unfair advantage for those breaking the law.

In the end it is the Consumer/End User that pays the price by having to redo the work or having operational problems.

The language included in this Bill is intended to do the following;

- Take away the "I did not know he wasn't licensed" argument from a cheating contractor or agency.
- Allows a "stop work" order to be issued to a person or persons working without a license within 48 hours.
- Reinforces that if a fine is collected as a result of a municipal building official reporting a violation, that municipality will receive half of the fine collected. Presently as no fines are assessed or collected so no municipalities actively peruse it.
- Requires that any dismissal or settlement be approved by both the commissioner and the appropriate board
- Requires that Cases that are not approved for dismissal or settlement shall be brought to the appropriate Board for a formal Hearing.

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