

**LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

**RE: S.B. - 81 AN ACT CONCERNING JOURNEYMEN and
APPRENTICES**

SUBMITTED BY: Cameron Champlin representing Plumbers and Pipe Fitters
Local Union 777

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the committee, Local Union 777 is strongly opposed to this bill. This issue has been on your agenda almost every session since I have been lobbying, starting in 1986. There were always conflicting testimony from the Union and Non- Union organizations. Senator Colapietro, the co-chair of the General Law Committee at that time, appointed one person from each group to act as co-chairs and select three others from each faction to form a committee. They were to compile all available information on this subject and try to come to a decision on what would be best for the industry, the consumer and for the safety of the public as a whole.

I was the co-chair for the union, Lelah Campo Executive Director of the ABC was the co-chair for the non-union. The committee met on numerous occasions gathering data that we thought to be relevant . This included information from the Labor Department, Technical Schools, and any other pertinent information to complete the study. This process took more than one year.

When the committee was satisfied that it had compiled all information available they unanimously agreed on the present ratio. A bill establishing these ratios passed and became law in 2010. (P.A. 10-27)

I must emphasize that the entire committee agreed that this ratio was the best solution for the industry to ensure that we have properly trained Apprentices and therefore the best trained Journeymen in the future. Remember one of Connecticut's greatest assets is its highly trained work force.

There was a proposed bill to change the ratio this session in the General Law Committee. I have been in contact with the President of ABC, Chris Syrek, and we both agreed that before any change is implemented there should be a study done to justify the change. The co-chairs of General Law have a concept on today's agenda to implement a study.

If there is a period when there is an abundance of work a contractor can request Ratio Relief from the Labor Department, therefore relieving any restraints on short term staffing needs.

For these reasons we respectfully request that you vote against this bill to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important issue. If any more information is needed please contact me at camc@att.net or my cell (860) 287-0020.