



DAN FEYEN

STATE SENATOR

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To: The Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business,
Tourism and Workforce Development
From: Sen. Dan Feyen
Re: Senate Bill 764

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing today.

This legislation began as a conversation with a constituent. I went to tour a business in Oshkosh, Shea Electric, and the owner detailed the problem he was having retaining his youth apprentices to me.

Currently, youth apprentices engaged in electrical work also hold a registered apprentice – electrician credential. Registered apprentices are required to complete 24 hours of continuing education credits annually. This requirement makes complete sense if you are out of school, apprenticing full time, and working to enter the electrical trades. However, if you are a high school student who is juggling an academic course load, a part time job via your youth apprenticeship, extracurricular activities, family obligations, and all of the other time commitments that come along with being a teenager, completing 24 hours of continuing education becomes very onerous.

Mr. Shea, my constituent, wants to rehire his youth apprentices. However, he generally is unable to as they cannot get the required CEUs and therefore cannot renew their licenses. This goes against the entire purpose of the youth apprenticeship program. We should be doing everything in our power to keep these youth plugged in to career opportunities that interest them and to help businesses build and maintain a viable talent pipeline.

This bill removes the CEU requirement for youth apprentices. It is very narrow and tailored to fix a specific problem facing electrical contractors across the state. We worked closely with DSPS and DWD in drafting the bill. They have indicated they would be willing to work through rule to change this requirement, however we feel the necessary 12-18 month wait time that the rule process entails is not fair to our constituents and chose to pursue legislation for a more expedient resolution.

Thank you for your time today. I welcome any questions you may have.

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Phone (920) 303-9380 Fax (920) 303-9410

February 3, 2020

Senator Dan Feyen
Room 306 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Good Morning Senator Feyen,

I am writing you today in support for **Senate Bill 764**. I am a constituent as well as a business owner in your district and I'm very thank you for the time you've spent meeting with me to listen to the issue, doing your own research and following up to conclusion by sponsoring this Bill.

I am also a chapter member as well as a member of the Board of Directors for the WI Chapter of NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association) who collectively employ more than 3,500 electricians throughout Wisconsin. Shea Electric has successfully completed one YA candidate through this program start to finish. We interviewed and hired Andrew Borgardt as a senior at Oshkosh West High School and he successfully passed in Journeyman's exam from the State of WI last June/2019. We are a proud supporter of the Department of Workforce Development's Youth Apprenticeship Program in the electrical field. We NEED more young people to join us in the trades and with little to no restrictions to entry.

Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts I am unable to attend the public hearing tomorrow to register or speak in favor of **Senate Bill 764**. High school students in the youth apprenticeship program, as part of their classroom curriculum will cover of the basic OSHA safety topics in addition to an overview of other key construction related topics. These students will be juggling high school studies as well as program specific courses and will be working in the field mainly part time during the school year and likely more during summer breaks for a short period of time. The current requirement of twenty-four hours of continuing education created a burden that has already deterred several potential candidates from participating. The electrical trade is currently the only one with a licensing restriction.

I would like to thank you again for introducing Senate Bill 764 and I wanted to let you know that I am 100% in support of an exemption for youth apprentices from the annual twenty-four hours of continuing education currently required as a condition of being a registered electrician.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information on this subject.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Shea, COO
Shea Electric and Communications, LLC
dshea@sheaelectricllc.com
www.sheaelectricllc.com

Jolly, Marie

From: Loyal O'Leary <loyal@wisneca.com>
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Sen.Feyen
Subject: Senate Bill 764

February 3, 2020

Senator Dan Feyen,
Room 306 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

I am writing you today on behalf of the 220 electrical contracting firms represented by the Wisconsin Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) who collectively employ more than 3,500 electricians throughout Wisconsin. Our organization is proud to support the Department of Workforce Development's Youth Apprenticeship Program in the electrical field.

Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts I am unable to attend the public hearing tomorrow to register or speak in favor of **Senate Bill 764**. High school students in the youth apprenticeship program as part of their classroom curriculum will cover of the basic OSHA safety topics in addition to an overview of other key construction related topics. These students will be juggling high school studies as well as program specific courses and will be working in the field mainly part time during the school year and likely more during summer breaks for a short period of time. Adding the requirement of twenty-four hours of continuing education creates a burden that has already deterred several potential candidates from participating.

I wish to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 764 and I wanted to let you know that NECA is 100% in support of an exemption for youth apprentices from the annual twenty-four hours of continuing education currently required as a condition of being a registered electrician.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information on this subject.

Respectfully,

Loyal D. O'Leary
Executive Vice President
Wisconsin Chapter,
National Electrical Contractors Association.
608-221-4650
loyal@wisneca.com

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



February 4, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development
FR: Michael Tierney, Legislative Liaison
RE: Senate Bill 764

Senator Jacque and Committee members,

It is a pleasure to be here today to provide testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services regarding Senate Bill 764.

Any individual, regardless of age, who is doing installation, maintenance, or repair of electrical wiring is required to hold some type of individual Wisconsin electrical license or registration and to work under the supervision of a Wisconsin master electrician. Registered Electrician is the best fit for youth apprenticeship students. However, under SPS 305.45, a registered electrician registration must be renewed after one year. At the time of renewal, applicants must show that they have completed 24 units of continuing education. This presents an issue for high school juniors and seniors.

When the issue of the applicability of this provision to youth apprentices was raised, we researched the issue and reached out to assorted stakeholders for their input. When it became clear the continuing education requirement for youth apprentices was not necessary and should ideally be waived, Secretary-designee Crim directed staff to determine if there was any quick and efficient way to accomplish this administratively within the Department without having to engage in making a rule change.

After reviewing the requirements of the current code, it was determined administrative options to address the issue were not available due to existing waiver requirements not being met. As a change in the rule would have been a lengthy endeavor, the Department was pleased to be able to work with stakeholders and members of the legislature to address this issue legislatively. The Department supports the passage of Senate Bill 764.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation today.

Department of Workforce Development
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Tony Evers, Governor
Caleb Frostman, Secretary

Testimony on Senate Bill 764
Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development
February 4, 2020

Thank you, Chair Jacque and Committee Members, for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) regarding Senate Bill 764.

Any individual, regardless of age, who is installing, maintaining, or repairing electrical wiring is required to hold some type of individual Wisconsin electrical license or registration. (Wis. Stats. § 101.862) "Registered electrician" is the best fit for youth apprentices (YAs) working in the Electrical Fundamentals unit (part of our larger Architecture and Construction YA program area).

Under SPS 305.08 and Table 305.06, a "registered electrician" registration must be renewed after one year. At the time of renewal, applicants must show that they have completed 24 units of continuing education. (SPS 305.45) For those who started their youth apprenticeship as a junior, that means they have to complete these CEUs if they want to go on to a second year in an electrical youth apprenticeship.

We understand that electrical employers have brought this issue forward, expressing their concern that this CEU requirement effectively bars at least some of the youth apprentices in their employ from continuing on into the second year of an apprenticeship. The demands on youth apprentices are very real. These are juniors or seniors in high school, working toward graduation and also working on the job, typically between 10 and 15 hours per week. They are often involved in other school activities as well.

It is also important to note that all youth apprentices are required to take "related instruction." Related instruction consists of courses that relate to the job and which, in combination with their on the job-site experience, help them learn the trade. Youth apprentices take at least two semester-long courses of related instruction each year of their apprenticeship.

Given the rigor of the apprenticeship program and the demands on the apprentices' time, it is understandable that some would feel the additional CEU requirement on youth apprentices is acting as an unnecessary barrier.

As we try to maintain the rigor and quality of the apprenticeship experience here in Wisconsin, we look at any potential change to that experience closely and need to determine whether the change has a negative effect on youth apprentices and their ability to move forward in that particular career, or on the employer and the quality of the work of the apprentice or the likelihood that the apprentice could become a valuable permanent employee upon completion of the youth apprenticeship. We do not believe that granting an exemption exclusively for YA registered electricians to the CEU requirements would have any negative effects on either the apprentice or the employer. In fact, it may make it more likely that youth apprentices in the Electrical Fundamentals pathway are more likely to continue their apprenticeship into the second year—a positive for both parties. We are, therefore, happy to support this proposal.

John Keckhaver, DWD Legislative Liaison

SEC-7792-E (R. 01/2019)

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>