

2019 SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

SB 2056

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
1/9/2019
Job # 30577

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Amy Crane

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to electrician qualifications; and license renewal; and to declare an emergency.

Minutes:

Att. #1 – 22

Chairman Klein: Opened the hearing on SB 2056.

(1:08)Senator Jordan Kannianen, District 4: See Attachment #1 for testimony in support of the bill.

(5:20)Chairman Klein: When I see the word federal, it throws up a flag, are we able to just strike their name out of the language? Will you straighten out for us as to why we can cross out the words federal bureau and just wing it on the state and still comply? Or will those guys not be able to work with the two-bit electrician in Stanley on regular projects they wouldn't be able if we can just strike this to work federal projects?

Jordan: When it was originally introduced the federal bureau, the apprenticeship and training, wasn't in the original bill, it was amended in later, and the idea was that they already have these training programs all set up, so to kind of go with them. And it took a number of years for the unintended consequences to really come out. As far as to change it now, there's nothing that would prohibit us from changing it. But then also it's not the intent to exclude any good program that's currently in place for those that are already using it. The state electrical board would certainly work with what's already in place but this would expand the opportunities the course work offerings.

(9:04)Senator Kreun: Living on the border, does that effect the licensure of the contractor? If you've got a license in both Minnesota and North Dakota, will you be able to work back and forth in those two states with just a state of North Dakota licensure board giving that individual a license?

Jordan: My understanding is that this change wouldn't affect the reciprocity agreements of any of the neighboring states.

Chairman Klein: I think we'll hound Mr. Schmidt about that a little bit. As I've sat on this committee over the years, what someone would suggest is fence building, because certainly we're attempting to, as reciprocity for example, if you're qualified in another state and then you come here and you have to go through all the testing and stuff. Why? And so we'll wait and find other people to ask about that.

Senator Piepkorn: It seems like if North Dakota was lined up with federal standards it would make things easier, why aren't the NDSC programs aligned with the federal standards?

Jordan: I honestly don't know why, I'll let others speak to that.

Chairman Klein: Not every state is the same, and we have unique challenges and we should have some flexibility.

(11:48)Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General for the North Dakota State Electrical Board: See Attachment #2 for testimony in support of the bill.

(16:40)Chairman Klein: It comes down to a variety of issues. First of all, right now with the workforce challenges but certainly always trying to keep the consumer safety in mind, so the training is certainly important. And apprenticeship is certainly important. If you've only done what this bill is requiring, then you wouldn't be allowed to work on a federal program or bid?

Scott: That would be a question for the executive director but my gut is telling me that the contractor needs to be approved as a federally.

Chairman Klein: Okay, because when you see that a lot of contractors have their own programs and do not want to be approved by the federal government. That would suggest to me, that if they have their own programs, they wouldn't be allowed to do any federal work.

Scott: Right. They wouldn't work on the air base. They wouldn't work on a federal building.

(19:12)James Schmidt, Executive Director, North Dakota State Electrical Board: See Attachment #3 for testimony in support of the bill.

(24:37)Chairman Klein: We're most interested in that you're attempting to fix an issue that we created. In an attempt to help these apprentices along. Because of the way this read, and the attorney general's concerns, we said they couldn't do it. We're sure that there were was disappointment out there or maybe words spoken to you. And by deleting or changing this language, those apprentices, once they did the same thing they did back in August for you, you will be able to move their certificates forward. That's the gist of that language on the first page?

James: Yes, to remove the departmental ruling. To remove the BAT out of there, put the board in there. Because as Scott mentioned, the electrical board is in charge of college curriculums now so why can't it be in charge of the apprentices that take the related training. I don't understand it because what I wanted to do when I first took this job was create and education committee to vet these programs. This is not just apprentices, but there is also

journeyman training that goes on for continuing ed and all that. There is a need for an education committee as part of the board.

Chairman Klein: That's something you'd do internally, right James?

James: Yes, if this goes forward the plan is to pursue that. And have these players that are part of this now, be part of that group. A spot for JATC and the department of labor if they would like to be a part of it. The college of science, the IEC, some large contractors with training programs. Right now it's about James doing this, it's just my opinion but there needs to be educators involved.

Chairman Klein: But the focus is on that particular issue and correcting the wrong that we created? At least in the opinion that we're hearing right now.

Senator Kreun: Just a question in your testimony, it says in visiting with the North Dakota director of US department of labor, his main concern was losing their number of apprentice programs they have ongoing if the law was to change. Is the federal program losing that, and they're just worried about losing apprentice programs or are they really worried about how many people we can put out to work?

James: This made it to the attention of the government's office. We had a meeting with the director of the department of labor and myself, Ashley from our office, we had Tony Grinburg from the outreach program, job services, they asked me to explain what happened, that's when the department of labor was concerned that he was going to lose programs. And I said that anybody that wants to have a program can have one. That's not going to affect what we're doing at all. They can go do their thing. Because it's about companies that want to work on federal jobs and do that path and that's fine. And we'll recognize that. But to have the board in charge of that, not have two people in charge of the same thing. It'll get convoluted. I'm willing to work with them. I don't know what the fear is there. Him and I met over at Scott's office, and he was scared of losing numbers and his main focus on jobs is to create apprenticeship programs and electrical, plumbing, and sheet metal. It struck me funny because our intention isn't to take away or put down anything he is doing but let the state agency handle its business. That's all I'm trying to do here.

(31:15 James' testimony continues)

(33:53)Chairman Klein: I would just add that the governor has put a lot of money in workforce training and development and it's good to see and industry taking that on and trying to develop additional students that want to. I'm happy that there's an electrician to call when the heating or the furnace goes out.

James: Somebody had mentioned about licensure in neighboring states, so the electrical board is a part of the national electrical reciprocal alliance, theres 18 states involved. Right now we have reciprocity with a dozen states, journeymen and master electricians, it doesn't affect working across borders, we talk about these issues twice a year.

(36:50)Bill Kalanek, National Electrical Contractors Association, Dakotas Chapter: See Attachment #4 for testimony in support of the bill.

(38:14)Chairman Klein: The last amendment on page 3 be deleted, which is the?

Bill: The underscored language on page 3, the board may expend funds and educate. Not necessarily to complicate things anymore

Chairman Klein: To keep our power limited technicians?

Bill: I think so, considering the board isn't authorized to regulate those individuals, they're not defined in the code yet. I don't think it's appropriate to have it in the bill at this point.

(39:00) Russell Wyman, Supervisor L&K Electric: See Attachment #5 for testimony in support of the bill.

(40:51) Brad Wangler, Owner/Operator of Rugby Electric: See Attachment #6 for testimony in support of the bill.

(43:10)Chairman Klein: You are one of those cases that left the state and came back?

Brad: That's true

Chairman Klein: And you came back to Rugby?

Brad: I was born and raised in Rugby, and it came to where Rugby didn't have a lot to offer me, and at that time I wasn't really sure that the state offered me a lot. Had an opportunity to go work in Colorado, I actually got my education through the IEC, they are a BAT accredited program. And living in a larger city, they had different classrooms available for us to be able to take those courses. Rugby obviously doesn't have, in the whole city there are seven or eight apprentices in the whole city. So that doesn't really justify having that kind of class setting, to have that ability to do that. We had kids and decided it was a better opportunity to move back. And I knew what was available here and I knew what it was for our upbringing, so I wanted to get my kids a better upbringing. Prior to moving back to Rugby, I was a director of operations for a \$200 million+/year and I had over 2,000 employees working for me so we had the resources available to have these BAT accredited programs in place in house. And we followed all those rules and we did a lot of government work. Since coming back here, we were unaware of that requirement and we just opened in 2015, I'm trying to expand a business and trying to do it the right way and then find out, because I have an apprentice that ready to test now, and get his license.

Senator Roers: Did you take the federal testing that was previously required? Did you personally take that test?

Brad: It was still through the state of Colorado, but the contractors if they were gonna be doing work on a government project we had to be BAT approved in order to do that.

Senator Roers: Can you explain the differences between being BAT approved and approved by the state program?

Brad: Well the state program would be all the decisions would be through that, but you wouldn't have all the certified. Every week we had to deal with certified payroll reports that we had to produce. We had to have documentation of six-month apprentice evaluations, that had to be performed every six months per their standard requirement. The appropriate pay raises would have to follow with that. Like James said you'd have apprentice 1-8 so a first year, first six-month apprentice would be an A1 and a first year, second six-month apprentice would be an A2. You would work it A1-A8 in that regard. And you had certain milestones that you had to meet in order to stay BAT approved. And if you had an apprentice that didn't get a raise for state performance reasons, then it became a whole other red tape nightmare to try to explain why you weren't giving raises to your employees. It brought a whole other level of influence, from people that really shouldn't have anything to do with it.

Senator Roers: The federal jobs, lets say you go to Minot airforce base, you're gonna have to have the BAT approved program?

Brad: Correct.

Senator Roers: So if its not approved, don't they automatically go up the journeyman scale?

Brad: They would automatically get a journeyman scale wage, which is what disadvantages a company like us from being able to be competitive if we're bidding that project.

(48:12)Darcy Schmidt, Master Electrician from Dickinson: See Attachment #7 for testimony in support of the bill.

(49:19)Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant, North Dakota State Electrical Board: See Attachment #8 for testimony in support of the bill.

(50:37)Stephen Reger, Willow Creek Electric: See Attachment #9 for testimony in support of the bill.

(52:39)Chairman Klein: I appreciate you coming. I'm glad we're getting a cross section of folks who have been effected differently. It's good to know that it's an issue wherever you live.

Senator Piepkorn: What kind of plants were you working on?

Stephen: The compressor stations are our primary, but all of the oil refineries and oil gas plants. The ones outside of Watford City, Oasis the target plant. All of those are under the gun. We just did a phase 2 on the Oasis plant, and before that was done, they want to start a phase 3. Its gonna be the biggest operation in North Dakota. The day they turn online, they're at capacity. If you ever see a shutdown on one of these, and the flairstacks go off, every flairstack around the country starts getting about three times the size. And they're all getting fined.

Chairman Klein: So what you're saying is we're going to reduce flaring, you get your work done by the end of the year?

Stephen: Yes, quite significantly. One gentleman who owns several oil wells said that he gets paid \$1500 a day when they're not able to process his one well and that's multiplied by all the wells out there.

(54:00)Wayde Sick, State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education: See Attachment #10 for testimony in support of the bill.

(57:00)Matt Koble, Director of Human Resources for Magnum Electric: See attachment #11 for testimony in support of the bill.

(59:04)Chairman Klein: On the last line says you support this bill without amendments, you've heard the discussion about amendments, do you want to just give me your opinion about what you're thinking here?

Matt: I think originally, in 2007 when this legislation came into place, is that some other individuals, somewhere thought that they had to be the BAT language into the bill, not understanding the longterm ramification of what would happen or where we're at today or why we're here today. So by leaving the wording as is, it does put that power. It doesn't harm or effect the DOL or office of apprenticeship at all. But it does put that oversight back into North Dakota's own hands. So that we can have that level of quality control again.

Chairman Klein: But the words power limited technicians?

Matt: I could probably agree with that, until we actually get PLP's at the board. Once that actually gets enacted in the future then obviously yes.

Chairman Klein: So if that was struck then?

Matt: I'm either way on that one.

(1:00:38)Steve Mundahl: See Attachment #12 for testimony in support of the bill.

(1:01:56)Chairman Klein: Closed the hearing on SB 2056.

See Attachments #13-22 for additional testimony submitted to the committee on SB 2056.

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
1/9/2019
Job # 30586

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Amy Crane

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to electrician qualifications; and license renewal; and to declare an emergency.

Minutes:

Chairman Klein: Opened committee work session on SB 2056.

Chairman Klein: About the amendments, power limited technicians, they said it wasn't an issue. Senator Kannianen suggested he's not sure why counsel even put that in there. So we're gonna hold off on this until I make sure I get in touch with Kannianen and Mr. Schmidt, because I know those three words were the only three words that seemed to be the biggest issue.

Senator Roers: If we wait for the other bill that's coming that deals with the technicians, then that solves that problem.

Chairman Klein: You are exactly correct. Mr. Schmidt says that the other bill will take care of that issue.

Senator Piepkorn: Are there pay discrepancies? Like mandatory pay increases in the BAT federal program compared to the North Dakota program?

Senator Kreun: More or less.

Senator Piepkorn: They demand or require more? And steeper pay increases along the way than the North Dakota program?

Senator Roers: If we approve this North Dakota journeyman program and then you go to a project that requires BAT, don't all of those apprentices automatically go up to a journeyman scale, and he said the answer is yes. And I've experienced that before, when you don't have an approved apprenticeship program by the federal government anybody that's an apprentice automatically becomes a journeyman because it's not an approved program. So to answer your question, is there pay issues, yes, they automatically go up to the highest of number.

Senator Kreun: Unless you're already, Burgstrom is the only one who has a whole program, so it doesn't really affect him but what happens is, if one of these smaller electrical companies wants the bid and do a small job on that, and they don't have it, their pay is automatically raised to that higher level whereas Burgstrom doesn't have to because have this program in place. And then every time just because of the labor, the larger company is gonna force that small guy out of the bid because they have to use that high labor rate while Burgstrom doesn't.

Chairman Klein: We're just talking about 2056 and the fact that we're gonna hold it over, I'd like to discuss it while we have a few minutes.

Senator Roers: I think by bringing these standards down to a state level these companies are going to develop these programs and in due time they're gonna say oh we need to get to Grand Forks airforce base and we're gonna have to go by the BAT rules and they're gonna do whatever it takes to get it, because its exactly what we experienced is that it's a competition issue. That happens in every trade, if you don't have an approved apprentice program, every trade, carpenters, iron workers, dry wallers, they all move up to the journeyman scale. And that's high, it's gonna be 40% higher than what you'd pay as an apprentice. And so I think it's a good think for the state of North Dakota, making them journeyman puts them on a scale of professionalism and that's gonna be good for the industry. So I really like what we're doing here, bring it down. And now think about this, these guys do four years of training and they go to class for 500-900 hours. How many of us have trained journeyman that put that kind of time in? Not many.

Senator Kreun: Visiting with Burgstrom, they said yeah it might affect us a little bit but it's the right thing to do because there's more work out there than they can handle. And he said, just what you said, eventually we're gonna be able to have a higher, better pay system down the road. I don't think it's a negative aspect in any respect from what I've heard and seen.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: If you go to two years at Wahpeton you still have to have four years, plus the 576 or you don't need the 576 anymore?

Senator Roers: I think the two years equals the 576.

Senator Piepkorn: And now 576 what's that?

Vice Chairman Vedaa: The 576 is on the job, in house training. So you can knock out those two years of school but it still goes towards your four years when you're doing that 576?

Senator Roers: I don't know if the years in school apply to the 8,000, I don't know if that would be true. I think its four years or 8,000 hours on the job. So you either take two years of school or 576 of training.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: But the 576, as you're working 8,000 hours, and you're taking that schooling in the evening.

Senator Kreun: I think it does but I don't know.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Maybe that 576 doesn't go to that 8,000 I bet it doesn't.

Senator Piepkorn: hours?

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Yes, hours. What they do is they meet on like a Wednesday night and have class for like four hours. Once a week.

Senator Roers: They have to finish that 8,000.

Chairman Klein: Just the number sounds monumental.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Well what did the one guy say, it was \$30,000 hit to some of these guys?

Senator Roers: I was wondering where that \$30,000 came from. What was that hit about?

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Well I think that's how much they're losing in pay because they can't move up that journeyman spot.

Chairman Klein: As soon as they bump up from apprentice to journeyman it sounded to me that the \$30,000 follows them.

Senator Kreun: Well it's the salary and the amount of hours that they're working out there.

Senator Piepkorn: What is the equivalent quality of educational experience that can be used as a credit against those 8,000 hours of on the job experience. Its says the board may determine, equivalent hours of education.

Chairman Klein: Is that new language? Where are you at?

Senator Piepkorn: The bottom of page one. Of the bill.

Chairman Klein: We would have to ask the director that.

Senator Piepkorn: You know what I mean, online courses work great for some stuff and not for heart surgery.

Chairman Klein: Well I'll get this ironed out and we'll see if we can get it out by next week.

Senator Piepkorn: Quick question about that amendment, I don't know why the board shouldn't be able to expend funds to educate and encourage potential electricians. Maybe that's where that power limited technicians are at.

Chairman Klein: Power limited technicians does not exist.

Senator Piepkorn: Okay, that just doesn't exist?

Chairman Klein: Well it could exist. There will be another bill to create the power limited technician category which came before us last session. Which is a particular technician that works primarily in the oil fields?

Senator Roers: No basically they are mobile, wiring. Its mobile wiring for data, digital, audio, all these. It's getting to a digital era.

Chairman Klein: It seemed to be the bill came from, Ron Ness was here last session to testify for it along with uh, because out west they were struggling because they have a lot of particular work that they do but nobody wanted to have that done.

Senator Roers: They want it to be able to have a classification for low voltage wiring, I'll call it. Which covers all of those arenas. And have those people qualified. And right now electricians have to come down as the only qualified person. And that's not always good. It's been good for us, because every time we bid that out the electricians end up getting that kind of work. But they want to create this new classification so that there can be another option.

Senator Piepkorn: And that would get paid less?

Senator Roers: Different education but probably the pay is the same. \

Chairman Klein: Well it's just they don't have to do 8,000 hours. And then they get paid less because they're not qualified to the degree. But there's a niche there and the attempt is to try to fill that niche with people who don't want to go through that whole process and then if they do, they will eventually, ya know, it takes a while to become a master electrician.

Senator Roers: One other question I had today while discussing this, okay well we're gonna get all these people classified as journeyman. What about taking them from journeymen to master now? What is that looking like now, cause you're gonna have a ton of journeymen and there's gonna be some of those kids that say hey I wanna be at the top of the food chain.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Or if they say I want to go out on my own?

Senator Roers: That's exactly right.

Chairman Klein: I thought the interesting point was the gentleman who, Matt, who suggested that we fill that, the next journeyman can take another and the web gets bigger. Continue to grow the industry.

Senator Roers: Well his comment was getting how do you have journeyman that are able to train rather than be trained. That's a very good point.

Chairman Klein: Closed the committee work session on SB 2056.

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
1/15/2019
Job # 30821

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Amy Crane

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to electrician qualifications; and license renewal; and to declare an emergency.

Minutes:

Chairman Klein: Opened a committee work session on SB 2056.

Chairman Klein: I have the amendments for 2056. There is another bill out there that is going to address power limited technicians. And so if you see these amendments were prepared by the author of the bill, Senator Kannianen. So that's all the bill would do. All the changes would just change those three words. Or four words. Any questions?

Senator Roers: So it would just take power limited technicians out of the bill?

Chairman Klein: This does not deal with power limited technicians. We have no definition in electrical code yet for power limited technicians. Senator Kannianen didn't know why they put it in but that was probably because the same person was preparing legislation to allow power limited technicians which is in another bill which we haven't seen yet. So we were getting ahead of ourselves by allowing this for that group.

Senator Roers: So this bill helps with the licensing of the journeymen?

Chairman Klein: Of the apprentices to become journeymen because we were holding them up in the apprenticeship program.

Senator Roers: Okay, perfect.

Chairman Klein: As you recall, the gentleman, Brad from Rugby, has three apprentices. But because of the federal issue, that came before them. They couldn't license those apprentices and thus, they're hung up in kind of a limbo but it's all in that testimony.

Senator Roers: I believe what we're talking about is relaxing some requirements to move apprentices to journeymen, and once they become journeymen they can take on three more apprentices and that's where he was getting, it was bottlenecking his ability to hire more people.

Chairman Klein: Because of the BAT, national requirement that required 900 hours, most apprentices had 536 hours, it was not allowing those, because of the federal rule, it wasn't allowing those apprentices to move forward. And Mr. Schmidt's presentation, as is Senator Kannianen's, Mr. Schmidt's kind of gives it clearer. And Scott, the assistant attorney general, Scott Porsborg's comments were equally, very explanatory.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Moved a Do Pass on the Amendment.

Senator Roers: Seconded.

A Roll Call Voted Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Motion Carried.

Senator Roers: Moved a Do Pass as Amended.

Vice Chairman Vedaa: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent.

Senator Roers will carry the bill.

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Title.03000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Kannianen
January 10, 2019

SK
1801

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2056

Page 3, line 14, remove "or power limited technicians"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1/15
Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2056**

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
- Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Noers Seconded By Vedaa

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Klein	X		Senator Piepkorn	X	
Vice Chairman Vedaa	X				
Senator Burckhard	X				
Senator Kreun	X				
Senator Roers	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Noers

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2056: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Sen. Klein, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2056 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 3, line 14, remove "or power limited technicians"

Renumber accordingly

2019 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

SB 2056

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2056
2/27/2019
32934

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Ellen LeTang

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Electrician qualifications and license renewal.

Minutes:

Attachments 1 - 23

Chairman Keiser: Opens the hearing on SB 2056.

Jordan Kannianen~District 4 Senator: Attachment 1.

5:35

Rep Adams: When you go to electrical school, they need 8,000 on the job training, would they need more hours if they didn't go to an accredited school?

Sen Kannianen: If you went to a school that wasn't accredited, the electrical board would have to know in advance.

Rep Adams: Could a person with just 8,000 hours to become a journeyman?

Sen Kannianen: Yes.

Rep Richter: When they take a test to go from an apprentice to a journeyman, is it just from journeyman then master or is it both?

Sen Kannianen: Both.

Rep Richter: Is it hours of training or continuing ed hours?

Sen Kannianen: For all the training, it would potentially count. That's the problem, a lot of training isn't currently approved.

Rep Laning: Do you think that going this would have any sort of impact on reciprocity on other states?

Sen Kannianen: This wouldn't have any effect on reciprocity.

Rep D Ruby: Are there any limits set on the trade or is it wide open?

Sen Kannianen: The language doesn't specify any people or limits. The intent is to work with the CTE in terms of limits.

Vice Chairman Lefor: Page 3, they don't have that authority now?

Sen Kannianen: My understanding is that they don't.

Rep Schauer: Looks like you are cutting the federal bureau of apprentice. Would an electrician not having that federal bureau stamped on his record cause issues if he leaves ND & goes to another state?

Sen Kannianen: The reciprocity wouldn't affect anything. The electrical board would have approved & shouldn't have any affect.

Rep Schauer: Are we lowering the standard of education?

Sen Kannianen: No, I don't think so.

Rep P Anderson: Additional education, is it on line?

Sen Kannianen: There is a whole mix offered.

Rep P Anderson: This isn't onerous that you take the education requirement?

Sen Kennianen: I don't know.

Chairman Keiser: Explains what the bill is trying to do. This is an antiquated system of licensing.

Chairman Keiser: The board is a regulated entity & they collect monies. They have a fund with a reserve to meet their obligations. If there is a surplus, do you use the money to recruit students in the program. Is that what this bill is trying to do?

Sen Kannianen: Yes, it's a fair assessment.

Rep Laning: The 8,000 hours, is that somewhat reduced if they go to school? Is there any credit for a 2-year degree prior to that?

Sen Kannianen: Yes.

Rep P Anderson: I think like the electrical board has 11 million dollars, why are we charging for the education of the 16 hours?

Chairman Keiser: This bill will allow it.

Scott Porsborg~Special Assistant Attorney General for the ND State Electrical Board: Attachment 2.

Rep Richter: A workshop for 2 days to prepare for the test, they couldn't take the test?

Scott Porsborg: I really can't answer that question.

James Schmidt~Executive Director of the ND Electrical Board: Attachment 3.

35:45

Rep Kasper: What is magic about 8,000 hours, why?

James Schmidt: That's the way it's always been. Also, there is a wide spectrum to get trained & get familiar.

Rep Kasper: The ability for you to grant reciprocity with experience, is there another place in statute?

James Schmidt: We fall back on the term "regulates similar rules to ND". We have to be similar to the rest of the states.

Rep Kasper: What gives you that right for reciprocity, it just says 8,000 hours of experience, so you can grant reciprocity from other states?

James Schmidt: Yes, that is the criteria.

Rep Kasper: I want to make sure that you can do what you want & should do.

James Schmidt: I believe we do.

Rep Bosch: How many electricians do you think that we are short right now?

James Schmidt: Approximately 900.

Rep Bosch: How long have we been short?

James Schmidt: I can't give you a definitive answer.

Rep Bosch: I'm concern that you can't put together a strategy?

James Schmidt: That's why we are asking Wade/CTE to do.

Rep Bosch: I'm curious why we didn't make that phone call earlier.

James Schmidt: We haven't been pressured with the funds we have.

Rep Richter: The biggest problem was that we couldn't find instructors. With the language in section, will it allow you to put on staff in high schools or the building instructors? Will this language allow you to do that?

James Schmidt: Currently right now, that there are no high school electrical courses, it's all building. We are thinking about giving it a shot.

Rep P Anderson: What is your pass/fail rate?

James Schmidt: About 65% pass rate, it's a tough exam.

Rep P Anderson: Do they come back again?

James Schmidt: If they score above 50 they have 3 months & below 50, they wait for 6 months to retake the test.

Randy Bartsh~An electrician: I'm in favor of the bill because it's leaving a lot of apprentices hanging in limbo. I would like the board to reconsider striking the "federal bureau of apprenticeships" because it has no bearing on what they are trying to fix. That is the gold standard for apprenticeships with all the requirements they have.

Rep Kasper: What is your opinion for 8,000 hours?

Randy Bartsh: I think it's a good thing. It's a wide variety of information.

Rep Bosch: Did I understand you said that the electrical board should stick to inspections & leave the training for someone that is their business?

Randy Bartsh: They should be allowed to vet programs, but the bureau of apprenticeships is the gold standard. They have the highest standards, run them through, so you don't waste the time.

Steven Mundahl~Hatton, ND-current Master Electrician: Attachment 4.

57:00

Rep Schauer: Are you convinced for the electrical board to taking over the vetting & not have a single iota of loss of safety when it comes to the education?

Steven Mundahl: I believe so.

Rep Adams: When an apprentice comes, is he assigned to one electrician for his full 4 years or does he move around?

Steven Mundahl: We cycle them to different areas.

Chairman Keiser: You have to be good in all 4 segments to pass the test.

Rep P Anderson: Do you have women entering the field?

Steven Mundahl: Yes we do.

Jeff Kirstein~Executive Director-Independent Electrical Contractors Association:
Attachment 5.

Chairman Keiser: Anyone else here to testify on HB SB 2056 in support, opposition, neutral position. Closes the hearing. What are the wishes of the committee?

Rep Adams: Moves a Do Pass on SB 2056.

Rep Schauer: Second.

Chairman Keiser: Further questions?

Roll call was taken on SB 2056 for a Do Pass with 12 yes, 0 no, 2 absent & Rep Laning is the carrier.

Submitted testimony:

Attachment 6: Jon Rieger~Partner in RBB Electric.

Attachment 7: Wayde Sick~State Director for the Department of Career & Technical Education.

Attachment 8: Ashley Windhorst~Administrative Assistant-ND State Electrical Board.

Attachment 9: Reid Mann~Branch Manager-L & K Electric.

Attachment 10: Josh Defoe~Electrical Apprentice-L & K Electric.

Attachment 11: Darcy Schmidt~Master Electrician.

Attachment 12: Brad Wangler~Master Electrician & Owner/Operator of Rugby Electric.

Attachment 13: Richard Schwingler~Frontier Electric Inc.

Attachment 14: Caralea Vogelsang~Apprentice Electrician.

Attachment 15: Bill Kalanek~On behalf of the Dakotas Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Attachment 16: Chase Carson~Apprentice for AH Inc.

Attachment 17: Tyler Thorson~Apprentice Electrician at AH Inc.

Attachment 18: Brandon Cluff~AH Inc.

Attachment 19: Clayton Schenck~One of the Owners of Magnum Electric Inc.

Attachment 20: Riley Blevins~AH Inc.

Attachment 21: Daniel Garcia~Apprentice Electrician at AH Inc.

Attachment 22: Stephen Regar~Electrician working the oil fields.

Attachment 23: Matt Koble~Director of Human Resources for Magnum Electric.

Date: Feb 27, 2019

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2056

House _____ Industry, Business and Labor _____ Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or
Description: _____

Recommendation

- Adopt Amendment
- Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
- As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
- Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions

- Reconsider
- _____

Motion Made by Rep Adams Seconded By Rep Schauer

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser	X		Rep O'Brien	Ab	
Vice Chairman Lefor	X		Rep Richter	X	
Rep Bosch	X		Rep Ruby	X	
Rep C Johnson	X		Rep Schauer	X	
Rep Kasper	X		Rep Adams	X	
Rep Laning	X		Rep P Anderson	X	
Rep Louser	X		Rep M Nelson	Ab	

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep Laning

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2056, as engrossed: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2056 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

SB 2056

Testimony on SB 2056

Jordan Kannianen - District 4 Senator

Section 1 - Education requirements

Eight-thousand hours of work experience are required for an apprentice electrician to qualify to take the Journeyman Electrician exam. In 2007, education requirements were added to the qualifications, requiring either 2 years of appropriate study at a board-approved institution of higher education or a course of study approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training.

This bill replaces the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training with the state electrical board as the approving authority regarding apprenticeship training courses. This way, all education requirements will be under the authority of the state electrical board.

ND State College of Science, Independent Electrical Contractors and others offer electrical apprenticeship training courses that are not approved by the federal bureau but that could be approved by the state electrical board. Confusion has resulted in individuals taking the unapproved courses and then not being eligible to take the Journeyman exam, and many electrical contractors in the state (such as myself) are not in a position to register for federal programs. This leaves the apprentices working under these contractors in a position of having to go to school to complete the education requirement instead of pursuing another option. Sometimes unintended consequences take years to bear fruit, and there are now apprentice electricians being denied the opportunity to take the Journeyman Electrician's exam.

The passage of this bill would result in more individuals being eligible to take the Journeyman Electrician's exam.

Section 2 - Undertaking Fund

This section eliminates references to the undertaking fund which was eliminated in 2015.

Section 3 - Authority to expend funds

This section adds language to allow the state electrical board to expend funds to work with CTE and others to promote the trade.

Section 4 - Emergency Clause

About 15 apprentice electricians could be approved by the board to take the Journeyman exam immediately if the emergency clause carries.

Testimony on Senate Bill 2056

My name is Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General for the ND State Electrical Board. I'm here to address the legal problem that led to this bill. If you look at the current wording of NDCC 43-09-11, it says that one of the ways you can become eligible to become a journeyman electrician is to attend training classes, while you're working on the job, so we can ensure you are educated in the technical aspects of being an electrician.

A number of entities provide this training. The outreach program at the State School of Science is one. The unions also provide it. Some electrical contractors set up their own programs to provide the training.

When this statute was passed in 2007, it was passed with the following language:

[in order to be a journeyman electrician, you must have] "Successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training." ("BAT")

The executive director can explain how this issue came to be known, but ultimately, I was asked the question by the board. Can we accept the outreach program at the School of Science as this training? I asked: Is it approved by the bureau of apprenticeship and training? The answer was no. So, we had no choice but to disallow that training. Because the language of the statute is clear.

There are other problems that have arisen with this language. The statute says "successfully completed" training approved by BAT. Well the JATC – the union – is approved by BAT but has a 900-hour program. Most programs are 576 – the federal minimum. So, kids in the JATC program come to the board and say "I've completed as much training as this person; can I take the test too?" And I ask the question: "has he or she successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the bureau of apprenticeship and training?" And the answer is no, because the training program BAT approved for the JATC is 900 hours.

There are also a number of electrical contractors that have their own programs that are not and do not want to be approved by the federal government. There are a number of paperwork requirements and pay scale requirements that do along with that approval that do not benefit some contractors.

So, by removing the department of labor from our statute and giving the board the authority to approve programs, it solves this problem. That's how we got here and that's why we ask for a do pass on SB 2056.

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of SB 2056 Electrical Education

PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

Chairman Klein and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 2056 was introduced with the knowledge and support of the North Dakota State Electrical Board. The portion of the bill addressing apprenticeship education should be considered as a house keeping issue. To give you some history at the 2007 Legislative session a law was passed requiring an education requirement for an individual to become a licensed electrician in ND. I did not attend any of those committee hearings at that time but I was serving as a member of the ND State Electrical Board. I recall the focus at that time was about making sure apprentice electricians were educated and trained through a proper educational path prior to or during their apprenticeship. After the requirement for apprentice education was put into place, two options were available for apprentices to meet the education requirement. One option was for an apprentice to earn a 2-year electrical degree at a technical college or the other option is referred to as "related training" where the apprentice would attend classroom education of 144 hours per year (total of 576 hours) while working at a full time electrical job for 4 years or 8,000 hours.

This past August, the ND Director of the US Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, Bismarck, ND, pointed out to me that our office was breaking the current ND Law NDCC 43-09-11.2(b)(1) by accepting apprentices to write the journeyman exam that have not included a certificate of completion issued by their federal office. I brought this to the attention of our board. The board concluded, along with the board's special assistant attorney general, that I was to start accepting for exam only apprentice applications that include the certificate of

completion issued by the Federal DOL. Prior to August our office had been accepting letters of completion from the apprentice education providers such as the ND College of Science Outreach program, Independent Electrical Contractors, Joint Apprenticeship and Training and other education providers. A requirement to receive a Federal Department of Labor certificate of completion, the apprentice would also need to be enrolled in a Federal Department of Labor apprenticeship program sponsored by their employer. The main reason for cleaning up this law is several of the apprentices, employers and education providers do not have a federal department of labor apprenticeship programs and do not intend to or cannot create one. One of the reasons a company would have a department of labor approved program is for working on government funded projects where prevailing wages apply. In visiting with the ND director of US Department of Labor, his main concern was losing their number of apprentice programs they have ongoing if the law was to change. I assured him that if this law changes and puts the board in charge of the ND apprentice education that, by administrative rule, I would suggest the board create an education committee of trades persons, which the DOL could participate in, would review/advise the board on all educational areas for electricians not just apprenticeships.

I've received nearly 100 calls from apprentices and their employers who are caught in this situation of never being able to receive any type of DOL certificate of completion because of the current law and would never be able to advance to be a journeyman electrician or their specific DOL apprenticeship program may require more than what is required by NDSEB administrative rule which is 576 hours. Holding an apprentice back like this costs them money in lost wages and also handicaps the employers from sending these employees out to jobsites by themselves as licensed journeyman electricians. Currently we've had to return several applications because these apprentices did not include nor can they ever earn the DOL certificate of completion.

Several weeks ago this situation was brought to the attention of the governor's office. I was called to a meeting there to discuss if there was a temporary solution for this situation until the law could be changed for these apprentices. The response from the governor's office was the law needs to change before the apprentices could take the journeyman exam that does not have a department of labor certificate of completion.

Currently under the same section of the North Dakota Century Code, the board approves institutions of higher education 2-year college electrical degree courses for the individual who attends college so why not let the board be the only entity that also approves the related training courses for the individuals who choose not to go to college?

Due to the urgency of rectifying this problem, Senator Kannianen has put an emergency clause on this bill so our office can resume what we were doing prior to this past August and allow apprentices to take their exam which will put more licensed electricians in the field to fill the gap of the workforce shortage.

This proposed bill also addresses the shortage of workforce by proposing to expend funds to educate and encourage individuals to come into the electrical trade. I have met with and discussed with the staff at ND Career Technical Education various ways for the NDSEB to try solving the electrician workforce shortage. The discussions were for CTE to manage a special category in which the board would seek different ways to encourage young people into the electrical trade. Some of the thoughts were to do a marketing campaign, offer incentives to become an electrician, apprentice scholarships, reimburse electricians to assist in high school industrial arts electrical programs and to explore the further development of education in the electrical field.

Therefore we respectfully urge a do pass vote on the original version of SB 2056 without any additional amendments or changes that others

might suggest as we do not want to delay passage of this emergency bill which will continue to hold up apprentices from taking their ND Journeyman Exam. As soon as this bill passes and becomes law, our office will open up our conference room to those apprentices that are caught in this situation and give exams daily if that's what it takes to allow them to get on with their careers.

I thank the bill sponsors and this committee for hearing my comments and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Testimony
Senate Bill 2056
Senate Industry, Business & Labor Committee
January 9th, 2019
Bill Kalanek
National Electrical Contractors Association, Dakotas Chapter

Good Afternoon Chairman Klein and members of the committee. My name is Bill Kalanek and I'm here today on behalf the Dakotas Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. I'd like to express our support of the concept of the bill.

I think we all recognize the need for highly skilled men & women working in the trades here in ND. We at NECA believe this bill was conceived with that intention. There is a great need for more well trained electricians in the state and with some amendments I think we can accomplish this.

The original language of the bill strikes the reference in code to the "federal bureau of apprenticeship and training", we feel that although the intent of this may be to allow other options when it comes to training, it removes from code the reference to a national standard recognized throughout the United States. With the amendment I've distributed I believe we can accomplish the goal the State Electrical Board is seeking and maintain the integrity of what is an accepted standard.

We would also suggest that the last amendment to the code on Page 3 be deleted as there is no definition of "power limited technicians" in code. Additionally, it is the mandate of the State Electrical Board to license and inspect, it is not designed to provide education.

Please consider the amendments provided and I appreciate the committee's time today.

Thank you

Proposed Amendment to SB 2056

Page 1, Line 13-16, Replace subsection (1) with the following language.

- (1) Successfully completed apprenticeship training from a federal bureau of apprenticeship and training program or equivalent consisting of a minimum 576 hours of appropriate related training approved by the board and completed eight thousand hours' experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment

Page 3, Line 13-14, Overstrike "The board may expend funds to educate and encourage potential electricians or power limited technicians into the trade"

Reid Mann (Branch Manager) L&K Electric, Williston ND.

Russell Wyman (Supervisor) L&K Electric, Williston ND.

Here to support Bill SB 2056 in regard to North Dakota State Electrical Board approved training is able to be one recognized for apprentice's education without having business requirements.

L&K Electric was led to believe that the North Dakota State College of Science Outreach Program was approved education for electrical apprentices. L&K Electric was unaware that the US Dept. of Labor was involved and does not feel it's necessary for them to be involved. L&K Electric has not done any Federal projects in the past. We are confident the NDSEB can set the standards for our apprentices whether it be online training or classroom training so please remove the federal department labor requirement from ND law.

L&K Electric currently has two apprentices unable to test due to this issue which is hurting our business and the two employees mentioned.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Reid Mann, Branch Manager

Russell Wyman, Electrical Supervisor

Good Morning. My name is Brad Wangler. I am a Master Electrician and owner/operator of Rugby Electric, located in Rugby North Dakota. We were established in 2015 and currently employ 3 apprentices.

I am here to testify on behalf of my company and my apprentice, Mr. Brady Olsen.

Mr. Olsen was employed by my company on 1 May 2016. Since his employment date, Mr. Olsen has worked as my apprentice for a total of 5,225.5 hours. These hours, in conjunction with apprentice hours served with Bartsch Electric of Rugby, North Dakota gave Mr. Olsen more than the qualifying number of hours (8,000) necessary to become eligible to take the Journeyman's Licensing Examination.

In October 2018, Mr. Olsen successfully completed the Journeyman's Licensing Examination Preparation Course. After completing this course, Mr. Olsen submitted to the State Electrical Board, all of the required paperwork, and requested a date to take the Journeyman's Licensing Examination. This request was denied. Upon further investigation, it was brought to our attention that the reason this was denied is because his hours were not properly registered with the Bureau of Labor. Rather, they were accumulated through verifiable payroll reports and submitted to the State Electrical Board for their approval. Mr. Olsen has employment verification documentation from myself as well as his previous employer, and is in excess of the required 8,000 hours to take the test.

As a new electrical contractor in the State of North Dakota, I was unaware of the requirement to register with the Bureau of Labor. Mr. Olsen is currently on hold in his ability to take his journeyman's test until this matter is resolved. If the State does not maintain control of these hours, we fear that he would stand to lose credit for the hours that he has worked while unregistered with the Bureau of Labor. This would prove detrimental to his desire to remain active in the Electrical work place.

Finally, as a new contractor with the intent to grow my business within the State of North Dakota, the passing of this Bill is critical to our success. We have reached our maximum for apprentice to journeyman ratio, and every day that goes on without resolution to this matter is costing us both financially as well as missed opportunities. We appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Darcy Schmidt I am a master electrician from Dickinson North Dakota I'm in favor of the changes to this bill because

1. As the end user of electricians, we need to have experience licensed electricians and the way it is now we cant get any of our experienced apprentices licensed when they have followed what they thought were the steps to advance their career if they need to start over we will have a shortage in North Dakota of good electricians also if this is not changed and we have to say all electrician that tested since 2000 are not licensed this will defiantly cause a very big shortage of electricians in North Dakota
2. So I ask that you make these changes as soon as possible so we can all keep doing a great job in the electrical field
3. Thank you

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2056

Presented by Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant, North Dakota State Electrical Board

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am in full support of SB 2056. As the individual that processes the applications for exam, I feel this is a small technicality when it comes to who the completion certificate comes from which has now prevented individuals from advancing in their careers. The completion certificates NDSEB has accepted prior to being told we were breaking the law, were from the programs which have all been reviewed and approved by the Department of Labor. I was unaware that an individual could not obtain a completion from DOL unless they were federally registered. This requirement has prevented many individuals from taking their exam, which not only puts a hardship on them but their employers as well.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions, I would be happy to try and answer them.

9 January 2019

To Whom it may concern,

As a Master electrician working in the oil fields of Western North Dakota since 2008, I support the legislation allowing electrical apprentices to acquire their needed electrical education by non traditional means.

The pressure to complete our projects keeps us in the field for extended periods of the day and week. A typical day is 10 hours on the job and usually an hour commute to and from the project. Our normal work week is 6 days but can change to 7 twelve hour days during shut downs or start up of plants. The few remaining hours during the day do not allow for formal in house training. We rely on the correspondence style courses offered through the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton.

In the 10 plus years I've been working in the ND oil patch, we have never bid on any Federal Bacon/Davis projects that would require our company to register our apprentices. We currently have several apprentices that are ready to test out but are unable to due so because of this flaw in the previous legislation requiring Federal registration. The Federal government should have no influence whatsoever in the State licensing of North Dakota Electricians.

I would implore the Legislators to reverse this oversight and allow the North Dakota State Board of Electricity to resume licensing requirement as they were prior to this.

Sincerely,

Stephen Patrick Reger
USN Retired



WILLOW CREEK ELECTRIC

Senate Industry, Business and Labor
SB 2056
January 9, 2019

Chairman Klein and members of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Wayde Sick and I am the State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2056, specifically page 3, section 3, lines 13 and 14.

As you are aware, North Dakota, and the rest of the country for that matter, is suffering from a skills gap. We continuously hear that the lack of a skilled workforce is what is holding our state's economy from growing. A solution to attempt to fill this gap is Career and Technical Education or CTE. CTE provides career exploration and hands-on experience for students to help them find their correct career path. For many years, the perception is that CTE is for the students that can't handle college, but times have changed. The workers needed to fill these jobs need more technical training that ever, to be able to think critically, and work as a team, all skills that are taught in CTE courses.

In October of this year, I met James Schmidt with the State Electrical Board. He was testifying in front of an interim legislative committee stating the electrical board was in need to expend their funds and the priority was to spend funds in high school CTE programs to fill the workforce needs, specifically for future electricians. Currently there are no electrical programs in any of our high schools. What we do have is 22 Building Trades Programs, with approximately 780 students enrolled on an annual basis. Although, electrical standards are included in the building trades standards, we believe instructors could use help in expanding their programs to start meeting the electrician workforce needs.

NDCC 15-20.1-16.1 within the CTE century code chapter, states *"The director, with the approval of the state board, may accept and use gifts made unconditionally by will or otherwise for carrying out the purposes of this chapter. Gifts made under such conditions as in the judgment of the state board are proper and consistent with the provisions of this chapter may be so accepted and must be held, invested and reinvested, and used in accordance with the conditions of the gift."* After visiting with Director Schmidt, the Office of Management and Business, the State Auditor's Office and the Attorney General's office, we have concluded that the North Dakota Electrical Board, with the consent of the legislature through passage of SB 2056, can "gift" funds to the Department of Career and Technical Education to expand the access of electrical curriculum to more students. CTE is interested in partnering with the electrical board to further engage students by connecting them with employers. Early ideas we have had are to develop a statewide marketing campaign for electrical careers, hire an individual to engage with students in the high schools, develop or purchase curriculum, instructor training, etc. CTE wants to partner with business and industry to provide for access to all students and will follow the Electrical Board's lead with their intent.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

January 9, 2019

Chairman Klein and Members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

My name is Matt Koble and I am the Director of Human Resources for Magnum Electric, an electrical contractor based in West Fargo, ND and has 3 other locations across the state.

I am here in support of Senate Bill 2056, of which changes current wording of the North Dakota Century Code. It does this to eliminate confusion on which entity can approve electrician apprenticeship program completion, then allowing the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) to approve apprentices in ND to sit for their Journeyman's Exam. I am also in support of the NDSEB being able to expend funds to help promote the electrical industry to future generations and help encourage them that the industry is a strong career choice for their futures.

What is currently happening, is that the Century Code as written states that all electrician apprenticeship training in ND needs to be approved by the (formally named) Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (currently named US Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Apprenticeship Training). In practice, the NDSEB has had the last say on which schools and/or apprenticeship programs have their curriculums approved in accordance with the electrical codes and practices of the State of ND. This is done for the benefit of consumers (homeowners, businesses, industries, etc.) by the NDSEB as a quality control measure, as not all schools and forms of education are equal. This education that NDSEB then approves, qualifies said apprentice electricians to test for their Journeyman's Exam, and some day also their Master's Exam with additional required experience. With current wording in the Century Code, the NDSEB doesn't truly have final say on which schools or programs are up to the standards of the NDSEB and ND.

With that current wording, our company currently has 2 apprentices that are qualified to test for their Journeyman's Exam today, but are not at this time allowed to do so as their education was not Federally registered as asked by the Century Code. In our business practices, we have not done so as the paperwork and compliance is an additional level of burden and our apprentices would only need to be registered with the DOL if we were to pay them an apprenticeship rate (lower pay rate) on Federal Prevailing Wage projects. We do not perform an abundance of these type of projects, and have instead opted to pay the full pay rates on these projects (apprentices paid at same level as Journeymen). These 2 apprentices have completed the required 576 hours of education from NDSEB approved schools (Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) and also North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)) and 8,000 hours of experience as needed by the NDSEB. But because the schooling and hours were not "registered" with the US DOL, via the Century Code the NDSEB won't currently allow them to advance their careers that they have worked so hard towards over more than 4 years. Come May of this year, we will have an additional 5 apprentices stopped at the same point in their careers due to this current wording. In the following 3 years we would have an additional 18 apprentices stopped as well. To put that into comparison, please realize that we are only just one of the many electrical contractors that operate in this State and the others surely have apprentices that this Century Code wording is and will be impacting.

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

Changing of this wording will not lessen the importance of the US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship Training and the apprenticeship programs they oversee. It allows the NDSEB to be the final say when it comes to curriculum and the quality of these said programs, and again performing a type of quality control for the consumers of ND. The US DOL doesn't have set "standards" when it comes to apprenticeship education curriculum, nor do they approve or sanction providers of education. The US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship has more of a purpose to increase apprenticeship opportunities across many different trades and occupations, and provide strong paths to the middle-class for employees while also helping employers gain much needed skilled and educated staff during these times of tough hiring markets. In many cases, the US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship works directly with an organization or single employer to create an apprenticeship program via their set Federal standards. But, those standards more apply to the duration of on-the-job training, how advancement of wages occurs, and that education is a "requirement" but do not lay out whom provides said education or who is qualified to provide it. The US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship is doing its best for the individual benefit of employees and employers, while the NDSEB is looking out for the end users (consumers) of the electrical industry.

Giving the NDSEB the ability to also expend surplus funds to promote the electrical industry is also a must, as there is a nationwide mass shortage of electricians. Employers and industry spend a large amount of time promoting our trade to high schools and the general public already. The electrical industry is a strong path to a career that can support the families and other industries of North Dakota, but not enough people are aware of it. By having the NDSEB also support and promote the same industry it oversees, it creates new opportunities within the state for organizations to grow and in the long-term create a stronger, safer, and even more educated workforce.

In passing of Senate Bill 2056, it will allow the NDSEB to once again have the final say on which apprenticeship programs or schools meet the standards of North Dakota and this State's Journeyman and Master Electrician testing requirements. It will also allow the NDSEB to expend surplus funds to help promote the industry as a whole, and help grow future professional and knowledgeable electricians for the State of North Dakota.

Thank you for spending time to read through this testimony, and we ask for your support without amendments for Senate Bill 2056.

Sincerely,

Matt Koble
HR Director
Magnum Electric Inc

Steven S. Mundahl

2255 Eagle Ave.
Hatton, ND 58240
(701) 799-6310

Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Steven S. Mundahl from Hatton, North Dakota. I am a current Master Electrician in the State of North Dakota and I am here today to ask for you to vote in favor of SB2056. I would like to explain my reason for being here today.

I am the father of an electrical apprentice currently enrolled in the IEC-Dakotas class curriculum and he works for a company that has a federally registered apprenticeship program, which allows him to take his journeyman's test once his schooling is complete along with meeting his hour requirement. But if my son were to leave the employment of his current employer and go to work for a company that does not have a federally registered apprenticeship program, but stays enrolled and completes his schooling and meets his hour requirement he would not be eligible to take his journeyman's test having the same education credentials the way the law reads now, which is typical of many young adults entering the electrical trade in North Dakota.

It is my opinion, that education and federally registered apprenticeship programs have two different intents: one is to create the skills and knowledge to pass the journeyman's exam and the other is for businesses to compete fairly when bidding federally funded projects. I do believe the way the current law is written these two items are combined, which is inappropriate.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Mundahl

Josh Defoe (Electrical Apprentice) L&K Electric, Williston ND

Here to support Bill SB 2056 regarding the North Dakota State Electrical Board approved training can be one recognized for apprentice's education without having business requirements.

I recently completed the 576 hours required by the NDSEB though the North Dakota State College of Science. I was unaware my company (L&K Electric) was not registered with the Dept. of Labor. Therefore, L&K Electric is not a Federally recognized company. Due to this, my ND Journey exam application was denied by the NDSEB because I could not receive a certificate of completion from the Department of Labor. This drastically effects my career path and is a very impactful financial burden.

The passage of this bill would benefit not only my career but my personal and family situation as well.

I appreciate your time regarding this matter and would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josh Defoe



1333 S 22nd Street, Suite 100

Bismarck, ND 58504

Telephone 701-222-8893

Fax 701-222-8586

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTING, SERVICE & REPAIR

1/9/2018

Senate Bill 2056

Richard J Schwingler with Frontier Electric Inc.

Bismarck, ND 58504

I am in favor of this bill

Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee

I am in favor of this bill because the licensing and job site training is conducted in our state and is monitored by our State Electrical Board.

By having the Federal Bureau as another step to go through it would just add more paperwork, time and expenses to both the Apprentice and the Electrical Contractor that he wishes to train under.

It is hard enough to get people to join our electrical industry

There is talk about trying to make it easier for construction and licensed trades to come to ND to work so why can't we take care of our own ND people and keep things simplified so they are willing to become our next tradesmen.

This bill needs to get passed soon so those men and women of our state who have put in their time and dedication to the state of ND can write their test and receive the license they have been working so hard for. It would not be fair for them to start over with another 3-4 years of electrical job training.

Thank You,

Richard J Schwingler

Richard J. Schwingler

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Caralea Vogelsang. I am an apprentice electrician, wife, and a mom of 4 from Dickinson, ND. I am in favor of the changes to this bill because:

- 1.) It has been a huge goal of mine to become a Journeyman. I have worked extremely hard for over 4 years on my apprenticeship program in order to obtain my Journeyman's license. In November 2018, I submitted my application to write my test, but I was denied and told that my education through NDSCS and my hours of experience meant nothing. My goal of becoming a Journeyman was put on hold, and so was my Journeyman wage. The pay increase, for me, was a perk because I do not provide the main income for my family.
- 2.) However, I am worried about the other families where the main income is the Apprentice's. He/she worked his/her way up to be able to take that test to become a Journeyman so he/she could better provide for his/her family, and now he/she needs to start over? That is at least four years wasted and a scary thought when you are talking about being the main provider for your family.

I ask that you will make these changes as soon as possible, because it has impacted a lot of people and no family should have to worry about what happens next when they have already put in the work.
Thank you.

To the North Dakota Legislative Assembly
January 9th, 2019

My name is Brandon Cluff and I work for an electrical company, AH INC., in Dunn County ND. The ND Electrical Board had advised me to complete the electrical schooling books and actively practice under a Journeyman for 8,000 hours in order to test out for my Journeyman's license. I completed the electrical schooling books from North Dakota State College of Science and successfully completed the 8,000 supervised hours. I am in favor of Bill # 2056 because I worked hard to complete the mandated terms that were in affect when I started my journey on becoming an electrician in North Dakota. I don't think the Federal Department of Labor should have a say in a state regulated and controlled licensing matter. I worked hard to complete my education and my hours under the impression that I would be able to test out once completed. NDSCS was the best choice for me because in ND you have to have schooling along with your apprenticeship hours to test out. I was able to complete my apprenticeship hours while doing my books at home like most online colleges. I am asking that this program is acknowledged so all my time, money and work won't be for nothing as I know many others that are here today are hoping for the same. Thank you for your time.

Signed Brandon Cluff : Brandon Cluff

Committee Members,

My name is Chase Carson and I am from Grassy Butte. I am an apprentice for AH Inc. out of Killdeer. I have worked there for over five years. I am a graduate of Dickinson State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After working for AH Inc. for about a year and a half, I began my schooling through the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton in January of 2015, as I had no prior schooling in the electrical field. While continuing to work full time I have been able to complete 510 credit hours and have begun working on my last book to finish my schooling that would allow me to test for my license.

I'm in favor of this bill because I have spent over \$2,000 for books and schooling, as well as roughly 500 hours of personal time working on it.

I have a wife and a two year old boy and being able to do my schooling through NDSCS is the only way I would have been able to pursue a career in this field. I strongly encourage all of you to pass this bill.

Thanks for your time,



Chase Carson

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Tyler Thorson and I am from Manning, North Dakota. I have been an apprentice electrician at AH Inc. since January of 2016. I earned a bachelor's degree in Ag Business from Dickinson State University in December of 2015 and began working at AH. I began taking electrical classes online about a half year after starting work. I have completed three of the six books required before being able to take the journeyman's exam and have started on the fourth. I have spent hundreds of hours after work and on the weekends working on my schoolwork and over \$1,000 on books.

I am in favor of this bill because it would allow me to continue to pursue my goals of obtaining my license and opening many doors for my career in the electrical industry. It would be a huge help for my wife and I, as we recently were married in April of 2018. We bought our home in Manning this last fall so that we could both continue to plant our roots and be closer to our jobs.

I encourage everyone to vote in favor of this bill so that people like me are able to continue to pursue their goals in the electrical industry.

Sincerely,



Tyler Thorson

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

January 9th, 2019

Good morning Mr. Chairman Klein and members of the committee, my name is Clayton Schenck from West Fargo, ND. I am here this morning as one of the owners of Magnum Electric Inc. which preforms as an electrical contracting business across the state of North Dakota.

We have reviewed SB 2056 which allows the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) to approve apprenticeship training rather than the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training along with allowing the board to expend funds to encourage potential candidates into this field of employment.

We feel that this is an emergency bill that needs to be rectified immediately. We currently have 1 apprentice that has completed the Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC) 4-year apprenticeship program that is not allowed to take the ND journeyman's exam and further their career due to the Century code the way it is written. We have another individual that has completed the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) correspondence program that is also not allowed to take the exam due to the same reason. We have 20 employees currently enrolled in the IEC's apprenticeship courses, 4 of those individuals will be directly affected this May 2019 as they will graduate from the program and not be allowed to take the journeyman exam. We have 3 employees enrolled in the NDSCS correspondence class of which 1 employee will be affected this May 2019.

These individuals have made the commitment to become better apprentice electricians and to help themselves advance in their careers to becoming journeyworkers. This is the path to higher wages to better themselves and their families.

Our industry has a shortage of qualified, experienced electrical journeyworkers. We need to fill the void and with programs like the IEC and NDSCS we have been able to grow our company from within better than if we were to search the state looking for journeyworkers. We feel that allowing the North Dakota State Electrical Board the ability to expend any surplus funds into resources that would increase the awareness of this technical field to potential candidates would also benefit the industry and the consumers.

In closing we feel that the NDSEB is best suited in determining what apprenticeship programs meet the requirements of the state of North Dakota. After all, the Laws, Rules and Wiring Standards of North Dakota adopted December 14th, 2016 chapter 24.1-01-01-01 History and functions "The board is charged with the responsibility to examine applicants and issue licenses to those having the necessary qualifications and knowledge in the law of electricity and electrical codes." This may be a small change to the Century Code but has an enormous effect on many individuals.

We ask for your support of SB 2056 in its entirety.

Thank you!



Clayton Schenck
Vice President
Magnum Electric Inc.

Testimony for Public Hearing
Senate Committee on Industry, Business and Labor
January 9, 2018

Jeff Kirstein
Independent Electrical Contractors Association
102 N. Krohn Place Suite 214
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

S.B. No 2056 – A BILL for an act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 43-09-11 and sections 43-09-15 and 43-09-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to electrician qualifications and license renewal; and to declare an emergency.

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee. My name is Jeff Kirstein, and I am the Executive Director of the Independent Electrical Contractors Association of the Dakotas, Inc. or IEC Dakotas. IEC Dakotas is a non-profit organization that operates in North and South Dakota by providing electrical apprenticeship training in both classrooms and an online training program.

IEC Dakotas represents approximately 30 electrical contractors who employ about 150 electrical apprentices in North Dakota. I am here in my capacity as Executive Director to ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 2056. This bill will simplify the process by which our apprentices are able to sit for the Journeyman's exam without sacrificing the on-the-job experience or the related instruction that goes along with apprenticeship.

As things stand right now, several graduates of our program are unable to take the journeyman's exam because they were not registered by their employer in the Federal apprenticeship program. While the Federal program has several benefits to contractors, it is not mandatory that they register their apprentices in the federal program. In fact, the vast majority of IEC's member contractors do not register their employees in the federal program. Passage of Senate Bill 2056 will ensure that our contractors in North Dakota need not participate in a program that they feel has no benefit to their company or to their employees.

I ask that you pass this bill so that our apprentices are not unnecessarily held back from career advancements and pay raises through no fault of their own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Kirstein

To the Chairman and Committee Members;

Hi, my name is Riley Blevins, and I work for AH Inc. out of Killdeer, North Dakota. I am appearing today because I am in favor of bill 2056. It is important to me that this passes for the convenience that our company works fifty plus hours a week. This program gives me a chance to get my schooling hours on my own time, while still supporting myself and my family. I am trying to further my career to become a successful journeyman electrician, not to mention the time, money and effort it takes that I've put forth already. So I'm asking for this program to continue as I know others are too. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely, Riley S. Blevins

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Daniel Garcia and I am an apprentice electrician at AH Inc. out of Killdeer ND. I come before you today on behalf of AH Inc. and its electricians on why senate Bill 2056 should pass, and that North Dakota Electrical board approved training should be recognized for apprentice's education without having federal business requirements. Our opinion in the company on the matter is that a lot of great journeyman electricians have come from the program that we've had apprentices enrolling in to complete their schooling and we should continue to use it. A lot of people including our own have time and money invested into their schoolwork and are getting ready to test for their journeyman's license. As for myself I think the program is the best way possible for me to be able to acquire my school hours and work full time to support 3 kids. The program has substantially supported the growth and well being of our company in the number of electricians we are able to put out in the field today. Yet there's still a shortage on licensed electricians in the state. Shouldn't we be trying to put more journeyman electricians out in the field rather than less?

Thank you for your time

Attachment 1
Feb 27, 2019

Testimony on SB 2056

Jordan Kannianen - District 4 Senator

Section 1 - Education requirements

Eight-thousand hours of work experience are required for an apprentice electrician to qualify to take the Journeyman Electrician exam. In 2007, education requirements were added to the qualifications, requiring either 2 years of appropriate study at a board-approved institution of higher education or a course of study approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training.

This bill replaces the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training with the state electrical board as the approving authority regarding apprenticeship training courses. This way, all education requirements would be under the authority of the state electrical board.

ND State College of Science, Independent Electrical Contractors and others offer electrical apprenticeship training courses that are not approved by the federal bureau but that could be approved by the state electrical board. Confusion has resulted in individuals taking the unapproved courses and then not being eligible to take the Journeyman exam, and many electrical contractors in the state (such as myself) are not in a position to register for federal programs. This leaves the apprentices working under these contractors (who are not able to complete a 2-year degree) as not being able to advance to a journeyman license. Sometimes unintended consequences take years to bear fruit, and there are now apprentice electricians being denied the opportunity to take the Journeyman Electrician's exam.

The passage of this bill would result in more individuals immediately being eligible to take the Journeyman Electrician's exam.

Section 2 - Undertaking Fund

This section eliminates references to the undertaking fund which was eliminated in 2015.

Section 3 - Authority to expend funds

This section adds language to allow the state electrical board to expend funds to work with CTE and others to promote the trade.

Section 4 - Emergency Clause

About 15+ apprentice electricians could be approved by the board to take the Journeyman exam immediately if the emergency clause carries.

Attachment 2
Feb 27, 2019

Testimony on Senate Bill 2056

My name is Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General for the ND State Electrical Board. I'm here to address the legal problem that led to this bill. If you look at the current wording of NDCC 43-09-11, it says that one of the ways you can become eligible to become a journeyman electrician is to attend training classes, while you're working on the job, so we can ensure you are educated in the technical aspects of being an electrician.

A number of entities provide this training. The outreach program at the State School of Science is one. The unions also provide it. Some electrical contractors set up their own programs to provide the training.

When this statute was passed in 2007, it was passed with the following language:

[in order to be a journeyman electrician, you must have] "Successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the federal bureau of apprenticeship and training." ("BAT")

The executive director can explain how this issue came to be known, but ultimately, I was asked the question by the board. Can we accept the outreach program at the School of Science as this training? I asked: Is it approved by the bureau of apprenticeship and training? The answer was no. So, we had no choice but to disallow that training. Because the language of the statute is clear.

There are other problems that have arisen with this language. The statute says "successfully completed" training approved by BAT. Well the JATC – the union – is approved by BAT but has a 900-hour program. Most programs are 576 – the federal minimum. So, kids in the JATC program come to the board and say "I've completed as much training as this person; can I take the test too?" And I ask the question: "has he or she successfully completed apprenticeship training approved by the bureau of apprenticeship and training?" And the answer is no, because the training program BAT approved for the JATC is 900 hours.

There are also a number of electrical contractors that have their own programs that are not and do not want to be approved by the federal government. There are a number of paperwork requirements and pay scale requirements that do along with that approval that do not benefit some contractors.

So, by removing the department of labor from our statute and giving the board the authority to approve programs, it solves this problem. That's how we got here and that's why we ask for a do pass on SB 2056.

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of SB 2056 Electrical Education

PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

Chairman Klein and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 2056 was introduced with the knowledge and support of the North Dakota State Electrical Board. The portion of the bill addressing apprenticeship education should be considered as a house keeping issue. To give you some history at the 2007 Legislative session a law was passed requiring an education requirement for an individual to become a licensed electrician in ND. I did not attend any of those committee hearings at that time but I was serving as a member of the ND State Electrical Board. I recall the focus at that time was about making sure apprentice electricians were educated and trained through a proper educational path prior to or during their apprenticeship. After the requirement for apprentice education was put into place, two options were available for apprentices to meet the education requirement. One option was for an apprentice to earn a 2-year electrical degree at a technical college or the other option is referred to as "related training" where the apprentice would attend classroom education of 144 hours per year (total of 576 hours) while working at a full time electrical job for 4 years or 8,000 hours.

This past August, the ND Director of the US Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, Bismarck, ND, pointed out to me that our office was breaking the current ND Law NDCC 43-09-11.2(b)(1) by accepting apprentices to write the journeyman exam that have not included a certificate of completion issued by their federal office. I brought this to the attention of our board. The board concluded, along with the board's special assistant attorney general, that I was to start accepting for exam only apprentice applications that include the certificate of

completion issued by the Federal DOL. Prior to August our office had been accepting letters of completion from the apprentice education providers such as the ND College of Science Outreach program, Independent Electrical Contractors, Joint Apprenticeship and Training and other education providers. A requirement to receive a Federal Department of Labor certificate of completion, the apprentice would also need to be enrolled in a Federal Department of Labor apprenticeship program sponsored by their employer. The main reason for cleaning up this law is several of the apprentices, employers and education providers do not have a federal department of labor apprenticeship programs and do not intend to or cannot create one. One of the reasons a company would have a department of labor approved program is for working on government funded projects where prevailing wages apply. In visiting with the ND director of US Department of Labor, his main concern was losing their number of apprentice programs they have ongoing if the law was to change. I assured him that if this law changes and puts the board in charge of the ND apprentice education that, by administrative rule, I would suggest the board create an education committee of trades persons, which the DOL could participate in, would review/advise the board on all educational areas for electricians not just apprenticeships.

I've received nearly 100 calls from apprentices and their employers who are caught in this situation of never being able to receive any type of DOL certificate of completion because of the current law and would never be able to advance to be a journeyman electrician or their specific DOL apprenticeship program may require more than what is required by NDSEB administrative rule which is 576 hours. Holding an apprentice back like this costs them money in lost wages and also handicaps the employers from sending these employees out to jobsites by themselves as licensed journeyman electricians. Currently we've had to return several applications because these apprentices did not include nor can they ever earn the DOL certificate of completion.

Several weeks ago this situation was brought to the attention of the governor's office. I was called to a meeting there to discuss if there was a temporary solution for this situation until the law could be changed for these apprentices. The response from the governor's office was the law needs to change before the apprentices could take the journeyman exam that does not have a department of labor certificate of completion.

Currently under the same section of the North Dakota Century Code, the board approves institutions of higher education 2-year college electrical degree courses for the individual who attends college so why not let the board be the only entity that also approves the related training courses for the individuals who choose not to go to college?

Due to the urgency of rectifying this problem, Senator Kannianen has put an emergency clause on this bill so our office can resume what we were doing prior to this past August and allow apprentices to take their exam which will put more licensed electricians in the field to fill the gap of the workforce shortage.

This proposed bill also addresses the shortage of workforce by proposing to expend funds to educate and encourage individuals to come into the electrical trade. I have met with and discussed with the staff at ND Career Technical Education various ways for the NDSEB to try solving the electrician workforce shortage. The discussions were for CTE to manage a special category in which the board would seek different ways to encourage young people into the electrical trade. Some of the thoughts were to do a marketing campaign, offer incentives to become an electrician, apprentice scholarships, reimburse electricians to assist in high school industrial arts electrical programs and to explore the further development of education in the electrical field.

Therefore we respectfully urge a do pass vote on the original version of SB 2056 without any additional amendments or changes that others

SB 2056

Attachment 3
Feb 27, 2019

might suggest as we do not want to delay passage of this emergency bill which will continue to hold up apprentices from taking their ND Journeyman Exam. As soon as this bill passes and becomes law, our office will open up our conference room to those apprentices that are caught in this situation and give exams daily if that's what it takes to allow them to get on with their careers.

I thank the bill sponsors and this committee for hearing my comments and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Steven S. Mundahl

2255 Eagle Ave.
Hatton, ND 58240
(701) 799-6310

SB 2065

Attachment 4
Feb 27, 2019

Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Steven S. Mundahl from Hatton, North Dakota. I am a current Master Electrician in the State of North Dakota and I am here today to ask for you to vote in favor of SB2056. I would like to explain my reason for being here today.

I am the father of an electrical apprentice currently enrolled in the IEC-Dakotas class curriculum and he works for a company that has a federally registered apprenticeship program, which allows him to take his journeyman's test once his schooling is complete along with meeting his hour requirement. But if my son were to leave the employment of his current employer and go to work for a company that does not have a federally registered apprenticeship program, but stays enrolled and completes his schooling and meets his hour requirement he would not be eligible to take his journeyman's test having the same education credentials the way the law reads now, which is typical of many young adults entering the electrical trade in North Dakota.

It is my opinion, that education and federally registered apprenticeship programs have two different intents: one is to create the skills and knowledge to pass the journeyman's exam and the other is for businesses to compete fairly when bidding federally funded projects. I do believe the way the current law is written these two items are combined, which is inappropriate.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,



Steven S. Mundahl

Testimony for Public Hearing
Senate Committee on Industry, Business and Labor
February 27, 2019

Jeff Kirstein
Executive Director
Independent Electrical Contractors Association
102 N. Krohn Place Suite 214
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

S.B. No 2056 – A BILL for an act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 43-09-11 and sections 43-09-15 and 43-09-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to electrician qualifications and license renewal; and to declare an emergency.

Good morning Committee Members. My name is Jeff Kirstein, and I am the Executive Director of the Independent Electrical Contractors Association of the Dakotas, Inc, or IEC Dakotas. IEC Dakotas is a non-profit organization that operates in North and South Dakota by providing an electrical apprenticeship training in both classrooms and an online training program.

IEC Dakotas represents approximately 30 electrical contractors who employ about 150 electrical apprentices in North Dakota. I am here in my capacity as Executive Director to ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 2056. This bill will simplify the process by which our apprentices are able to sit for the Journeyman's exam without sacrificing the on-the-job experience or the related instruction that goes along with apprenticeship.

As things stand right now, several graduates of our program are unable to take the journeyman's exam because they were not registered by their employer in the Federal apprenticeship program. While the Federal program has several benefits to contractors, it is not mandatory that they register their apprentices in the federal program. In fact, the vast majority of IEC's member contractors do not register their employees in the federal program. Passage of Senate Bill 2056 will ensure that our contractors in North Dakota need not participate in a program that they feel has no benefit to their company or to their employees.

Additionally, I would like to add the amendment to enable the Electrical Board to expend funds to educate and encourage potential electricians, would be of benefit to the entire electrical industry and our members strongly support the amendment.

I ask that you pass this bill so that our apprentices are not unnecessarily held back from career advancements and pay raises through no fault of their own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Kirstein

Attachment 6
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

RBB Electric, Inc.

Rieger, Borgen, Benson Electric Inc.

PO Box 13635
1123 North 51st Street
Grand Forks, ND 58208
Phone (701) 775-7404
Fax (701) 775-7417

Good Morning, my name is Jon Rieger. I am a partner in RBB Electric. We have offices in Grand Forks, Fargo, and Bismarck North Dakota. RBB Electric has been in business for over 16 years and we currently have about 70 employees.

We are currently suffering a skilled worker labor shortage in North Dakota. It has been brought to our attention that there is a problem with how our current law is written. North Dakota needs you to pass Senate Bill 2056. This law will not change how we have been doing anything in North Dakota but will allow us to continue on with how we have been doing things. Will this address our skilled labor shortage? No, but it will not compound this problem. If we do not pass this bill we will surely suffer in the coming months. As people retire we will be losing skilled laborers and have no one to replace them.

The educational requirements for our apprentice electricians will be fulfilled by approved colleges and educational training programs, just as we have been doing. Some of these are the same colleges you can receive a two year degree from. You may be asking why not just get a college degree? Some of our skilled labor does not want to go to college or they may not be college material. This is why many people have gone into trades. There is also a benefit of training people from the ground up. I can tell you as an employer at least 75 % of our journeyman electricians we have trained from the start and are still with us today. Retention of employees is huge.

We have several employees who have already completed the four years of educational requirements and are currently waiting to test. Additionally, we have many apprentice electricians who are partway or almost completely through their education requirements. If we don't pass this bill how do we justify their training that will do them no good?

So in closing I am asking you to please pass Senate Bill 2056 to allow our state to continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you.

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Attachment 7
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Senate Industry, Business and Labor
SB 2056
January 9, 2019

Chairman Klein and members of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Wayde Sick and I am the State Director for the Department of Career and Technical Education. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 2056, specifically page 3, section 3, lines 13 and 14.

As you are aware, North Dakota, and the rest of the country for that matter, is suffering from a skills gap. We continuously hear that this skills gap is what is holding our state's economy from growing. A solution to attempting to fill this gap is Career and Technical Education or CTE. CTE provides career exploration and hands-on experience for students to help them find their correct career path. For many years, the perception is that CTE is for the students that can't handle college, but times have changed. The workers needed to fill these jobs need to be able to think critically, work with their hands, and work as a team, all skills that are taught in CTE courses.

In October of this year, I met James Schmidt with the State Electrical Board. He was testifying in front of an interim legislative committee stating the electrical board was in need to expend their funds and the priority was to spend funds in high school CTE programs to fill the workforce needs, specifically for future electricians. Currently there are no electrical programs in any of our high schools. What we do have is 22 Building Trades Programs, with approximately 780 students enrolled on an annual basis. Although, electrical standards are included in the building trades standards, we believe many instructors could use help in expanding their programs to start meeting the electrician workforce needs.

NDCC 15-20.1-16.1 within the CTE century code chapter, states *"The director, with the approval of the state board, may accept and use gifts made unconditionally by will or otherwise for carrying out the purposes of this chapter. Gifts made under such conditions as in the judgment of the state board are proper and consistent with the provisions of this chapter may be so accepted and must be held, invested and reinvested, and used in accordance with the conditions of the gift."* After visiting with Director Schmidt, the Office of Management and Business, the State Auditor's Office and the Attorney General's office, we have concluded that the North Dakota Electrical Board, with the consent of the legislature through passage of SB 2056, can "gift" funds to the Department of Career and Technical Education to expand the access of electrical curriculum to more students. CTE is interested in partnering with the electrical board, not to increase our budget, but to further engage students by connecting them with employers. Early ideas we have had are to develop a statewide marketing campaign for electrical careers, hire an individual to engage with students in the high schools, develop or purchase curriculum, instructor training, etc. CTE wants to partner with business and industry to provide for access to all students and will follow the Electrical Board's lead with their intent.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Attachment 8
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2056

Presented by Ashley Windhorst, Administrative Assistant, North Dakota State Electrical Board

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am in full support of SB 2056. As the individual that processes the applications for exam, I feel this is a small technicality when it comes to who the completion certificate comes from which has now prevented individuals from advancing in their careers. The completion certificates NDSEB has accepted prior to being told we were breaking the law, were from the programs which have all been reviewed and approved by the Department of Labor. I was unaware that an individual could not obtain a completion from DOL unless they were federally registered. This requirement has prevented many individuals from taking their exam, which not only puts a hardship on them but their employers as well.

Thank you for your time, if you have any questions, I would be happy to try and answer them.

Attachment 9
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Reid Mann (Branch Manager) L&K Electric, Williston ND.

Russell Wyman (Supervisor) L&K Electric, Williston ND.

Here to support Bill SB 2056 in regard to North Dakota State Electrical Board approved training is able to be one recognized for apprentice's education without having business requirements.

L&K Electric was led to believe that the North Dakota State College of Science Outreach Program was approved education for electrical apprentices. L&K Electric was unaware that the US Dept. of Labor was involved and does not feel it's necessary for them to be involved. L&K Electric has not done any Federal projects in the past. We are confident the NDSEB can set the standards for our apprentices whether it be online training or classroom training so please remove the federal department labor requirement from ND law.

L&K Electric currently has two apprentices unable to test due to this issue which is hurting our business and the two employees mentioned.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Reid Mann, Branch Manager

Russell Wyman, Electrical Supervisor

Attachment 10
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Josh Defoe (Electrical Apprentice) L&K Electric, Williston ND

Here to support Bill SB 2056 regarding the North Dakota State Electrical Board approved training can be one recognized for apprentice's education without having business requirements.

I recently completed the 576 hours required by the NDSEB through the North Dakota State College of Science. I was unaware my company (L&K Electric) was not registered with the Dept. of Labor. Therefore, L&K Electric is not a Federally recognized company. Due to this, my ND Journey exam application was denied by the NDSEB because I could not receive a certificate of completion from the Department of Labor. This drastically effects my career path and is a very impactful financial burden.

The passage of this bill would benefit not only my career but my personal and family situation as well.

I appreciate your time regarding this matter and would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josh Defoe

Attachment 11
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Darcy Schmidt I am a master electrician from Dickinson North Dakota I'm in favor of the changes to this bill because

1. As the end user of electricians, we need to have experience licensed electricians and the way it is now we cant get any of our experienced apprentices licensed when they have followed what they thought were the steps to advance their career if they need to start over we will have a shortage in North Dakota of good electricians also if this is not changed and we have to say all electrician that tested since 2008 are not licensed this will defiantly cause a very big shortage of electricians in North Dakota
2. So I ask that you make these changes as soon as possible so we can all keep doing a great job in the electrical field
3. Thank you

Attachment 12
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 3056

Good Morning. My name is Brad Wangler. I am a Master Electrician and owner/operator of Rugby Electric, located in Rugby North Dakota. We were established in 2015 and currently employ 3 apprentices.

I am here to testify on behalf of my company and my apprentice, Mr. Brady Olsen.

Mr. Olsen was employed by my company on 1 May 2016. Since his employment date, Mr. Olsen has worked as my apprentice for a total of 5,225.5 hours. These hours, in conjunction with apprentice hours served with Bartsch Electric of Rugby, North Dakota gave Mr. Olsen more than the qualifying number of hours (8,000) necessary to become eligible to take the Journeyman's Licensing Examination.

In October 2018, Mr. Olsen successfully completed the Journeyman's Licensing Examination Preparation Course. After completing this course, Mr. Olsen submitted to the State Electrical Board, all of the required paperwork, and requested a date to take the Journeyman's Licensing Examination. This request was denied. Upon further investigation, it was brought to our attention that the reason this was denied is because his hours were not properly registered with the Bureau of Labor. Rather, they were accumulated through verifiable payroll reports and submitted to the State Electrical Board for their approval. Mr. Olsen has employment verification documentation from myself as well as his previous employer, and is in excess of the required 8,000 hours to take the test.

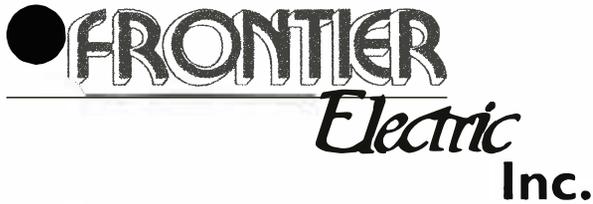
As a new electrical contractor in the State of North Dakota, I was unaware of the requirement to register with the Bureau of Labor. Mr. Olsen is currently on hold in his ability to take his journeyman's test until this matter is resolved. If the State does not maintain control of these hours, we fear that he would stand to lose credit for the hours that he has worked while unregistered with the Bureau of Labor. This would prove detrimental to his desire to remain active in the Electrical work place.

Finally, as a new contractor with the intent to grow my business within the State of North Dakota, the passing of this Bill is critical to our success. We have reached our maximum for apprentice to journeyman ratio, and every day that goes on without resolution to this matter is costing us both financially as well as missed opportunities. We appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Attachment 13

Feb. 27, 2019

SB 2056



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COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTING, SERVICE & REPAIR

1/9/2018

Senate Bill 2056

Richard J Schwingler with Frontier Electric Inc.

Bismarck, ND 58504

I am in favor of this bill

Mr. or Madam Chairman and members of the committee

I am in favor of this bill because the licensing and job site training is conducted in our state and is monitored by our State Electrical Board.

By having the Federal Bureau as another step to go through it would just add more paperwork, time and expenses to both the Apprentice and the Electrical Contractor that he wishes to train under.

It is hard enough to get people to join our electrical industry

There is talk about trying to make it easier for construction and licensed trades to come to ND to work so why can't we take care of our own ND people and keep things simplified so they are willing to become our next tradesmen.

This bill needs to get passed soon so those men and women of our state who have put in their time and dedication to the state of ND can write their test and receive the license they have been working so hard for. It would not be fair for them to start over with another 3-4 years of electrical job training.

Thank You,

Richard J Schwingler

Richard J. Schwingler

Attachment 14
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Caralea Vogelsang. I am an apprentice electrician, wife, and a mom of 4 from Dickinson, ND. I am in favor of the changes to this bill because:

- 1.) It has been a huge goal of mine to become a Journeyman. I have worked extremely hard for over 4 years on my apprenticeship program in order to obtain my Journeyman's license. In November 2018, I submitted my application to write my test, but I was denied and told that my education through NDSCS and my hours of experience meant nothing. My goal of becoming a Journeyman was put on hold, and so was my Journeyman wage. The pay increase, for me, was a perk because I do not provide the main income for my family.
- 2.) However, I am worried about the other families where the main income is the Apprentice's. He/she worked his/her way up to be able to take that test to become a Journeyman so he/she could better provide for his/her family, and now he/she needs to start over? That is at least four years wasted and a scary thought when you are talking about being the main provider for your family.

I ask that you will make these changes as soon as possible, because it has impacted a lot of people and no family should have to worry about what happens next when they have already put in the work.
Thank you.

Attachment 15
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Testimony
Senate Bill 2056
Senate Industry, Business & Labor Committee
January 9th, 2019
Bill Kalanek
National Electrical Contractors Association, Dakotas Chapter

Good Afternoon Chairman Klein and members of the committee. My name is Bill Kalanek and I'm here today on behalf the Dakotas Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. I'd like to express our support of the concept of the bill.

I think we all recognize the need for highly skilled men & women working in the trades here in ND. We at NECA believe this bill was conceived with that intention. There is a great need for more well trained electricians in the state and with some amendments I think we can accomplish this.

The original language of the bill strikes the reference in code to the "federal bureau of apprenticeship and training", we feel that although the intent of this may be to allow other options when it comes to training, it removes from code the reference to a national standard recognized throughout the United States. With the amendment I've distributed I believe we can accomplish the goal the State Electrical Board is seeking and maintain the integrity of what is an accepted standard.

We would also suggest that the last amendment to the code on Page 3 be deleted as there is no definition of "power limited technicians" in code. Additionally, it is the mandate of the State Electrical Board to license and inspect, it is not designed to provide education.

Please consider the amendments provided and I appreciate the committee's time today.

Thank you

Attachment 16
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Committee Members,

My name is Chase Carson and I am from Grassy Butte. I am an apprentice for AH Inc. out of Killdeer. I have worked there for over five years. I am a graduate of Dickinson State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. After working for AH Inc. for about a year and a half, I began my schooling through the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton in January of 2015, as I had no prior schooling in the electrical field. While continuing to work full time I have been able to complete 510 credit hours and have begun working on my last book to finish my schooling that would allow me to test for my license.

I'm in favor of this bill because I have spent over \$2,000 for books and schooling, as well as roughly 500 hours of personal time working on it.

I have a wife and a two year old boy and being able to do my schooling through NDSCS is the only way I would have been able to pursue a career in this field. I strongly encourage all of you to pass this bill.

Thanks for your time,



Chase Carson

Attachment 17
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Tyler Thorson and I am from Manning, North Dakota. I have been an apprentice electrician at AH Inc. since January of 2016. I earned a bachelor's degree in Ag Business from Dickinson State University in December of 2015 and began working at AH. I began taking electrical classes online about a half year after starting work. I have completed three of the six books required before being able to take the journeyman's exam and have started on the fourth. I have spent hundreds of hours after work and on the weekends working on my schoolwork and over \$1,000 on books.

I am in favor of this bill because it would allow me to continue to pursue my goals of obtaining my license and opening many doors for my career in the electrical industry. It would be a huge help for my wife and I, as we recently were married in April of 2018. We bought our home in Manning this last fall so that we could both continue to plant our roots and be closer to our jobs.

I encourage everyone to vote in favor of this bill so that people like me are able to continue to pursue their goals in the electrical industry.

Sincerely,



Tyler Thorson

Attachment 18
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

To the North Dakota Legislative Assembly
January 9th, 2019

My name is Brandon Cluff and I work for an electrical company, AH INC., in Dunn County ND. The ND Electrical Board had advised me to complete the electrical schooling books and actively practice under a Journeyman for 8,000 hours in order to test out for my Journeyman's license. I completed the electrical schooling books from North Dakota State College of Science and successfully completed the 8,000 supervised hours. I am in favor of Bill # 2056 because I worked hard to complete the mandated terms that were in affect when I started my journey on becoming an electrician in North Dakota. I don't think the Federal Department of Labor should have a say in a state regulated and controlled licensing matter. I worked hard to complete my education and my hours under the impression that I would be able to test out once completed. NDSCS was the best choice for me because in ND you have to have schooling along with your apprenticeship hours to test out. I was able to complete my apprenticeship hours while doing my books at home like most online colleges. I am asking that this program is acknowledged so all my time, money and work won't be for nothing as I know many others that are here today are hoping for the same. Thank you for your time.

Signed Brandon Cluff: 

Attachment 19
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

January 9th, 2019

Good morning Mr. Chairman Klein and members of the committee, my name is Clayton Schenck from West Fargo, ND. I am here this morning as one of the owners of Magnum Electric Inc. which preforms as an electrical contracting business across the state of North Dakota.

We have reviewed SB 2056 which allows the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) to approve apprenticeship training rather than the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training along with allowing the board to expend funds to encourage potential candidates into this field of employment.

We feel that this is an emergency bill that needs to be rectified immediately. We currently have 1 apprentice that has completed the Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC) 4-year apprenticeship program that is not allowed to take the ND journeyman's exam and further their career due to the Century code the way it is written. We have another individual that has completed the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) correspondence program that is also not allowed to take the exam due to the same reason. We have 20 employees currently enrolled in the IEC's apprenticeship courses, 4 of those individuals will be directly affected this May 2019 as they will graduate from the program and not be allowed to take the journeyman exam. We have 3 employees enrolled in the NDSCS correspondence class of which 1 employee will be affected this May 2019.

These individuals have made the commitment to become better apprentice electricians and to help themselves advance in their careers to becoming journeyworkers. This is the path to higher wages to better themselves and their families.

Our industry has a shortage of qualified, experienced electrical journeyworkers. We need to fill the void and with programs like the IEC and NDSCS we have been able to grow our company from within better than if we were to search the state looking for journeyworkers. We feel that allowing the North Dakota State Electrical Board the ability to expend any surplus funds into resources that would increase the awareness of this technical field to potential candidates would also benefit the industry and the consumers.

In closing we feel that the NDSEB is best suited in determining what apprenticeship programs meet the requirements of the state of North Dakota. After all, the Laws, Rules and Wiring Standards of North Dakota adopted December 14th, 2016 chapter 24.1-01-01-01 History and functions "The board is charged with the responsibility to examine applicants and issue licenses to those having the necessary qualifications and knowledge in the law of electricity and electrical codes." This may be a small change to the Century Code but has an enormous effect on many individuals.

We ask for your support of SB 2056 in its entirety.

Thank you!



Clayton Schenck
Vice President
Magnum Electric Inc.

Attachment 20
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

To the Chairman and Committee Members;

Hi, my name is Riley Blevins, and I work for AH Inc. out of Killdeer, North Dakota. I am appearing today because I am in favor of bill 2056. It is important to me that this passes for the convenience that our company works fifty plus hours a week. This program gives me a chance to get my schooling hours on my own time, while still supporting myself and my family. I am trying to further my career to become a successful journeyman electrician, not to mention the time, money and effort it takes that I've put forth already. So I'm asking for this program to continue as I know others are too. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely, Riley S. Blevins

Attachment 21
Feb 27, 2019
SB 2056

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Daniel Garcia and I am an apprentice electrician at AH Inc. out of Killdeer ND. I come before you today on behalf of AH Inc. and its electricians on why senate Bill 2056 should pass, and that North Dakota Electrical board approved training should be recognized for apprentice's education without having federal business requirements. Our opinion in the company on the matter is that a lot of great journeyman electricians have come from the program that we've had apprentices enrolling in to complete their schooling and we should continue to use it. A lot of people including our own have time and money invested into their schoolwork and are getting ready to test for their journeyman's license. As for myself I think the program is the best way possible for me to be able to acquire my school hours and work full time to support 3 kids. The program has substantially supported the growth and well being of our company in the number of electricians we are able to put out in the field today. Yet there's still a shortage on licensed electricians in the state. Shouldn't we be trying to put more journeyman electricians out in the field rather than less?

Thank you for your time

Attachment 22
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

9 January 2019

To Whom it may concern,

As a Master electrician working in the oil fields of Western North Dakota since 2008, I support the legislation allowing electrical apprentices to acquire their needed electrical education by non traditional means.

The pressure to complete our projects keeps us in the field for extended periods of the day and week. A typical day is 10 hours on the job and usually an hour commute to and from the project. Our normal work week is 6 days but can change to 7 twelve hour days during shut downs or start up of plants. The few remaining hours during the day do not allow for formal in house training. We rely on the correspondence style courses offered through the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton.

In the 10 plus years I've been working in the ND oil patch, we have never bid on any Federal Bacon/Davis projects that would require our company to register our apprentices. We currently have several apprentices that are ready to test out but are unable to due so because of this flaw in the previous legislation requiring Federal registration. The Federal government should have no influence whatsoever in the State licensing of North Dakota Electricians.

I would implore the Legislators to reverse this oversight and allow the North Dakota State Board of Electricity to resume licensing requirement as they were prior to this.

Sincerely,

Stephen Patrick Reger
USN Retired



WILLOW CREEK ELECTRIC

Attachment 23
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

January 9, 2019

Chairman Klein and Members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

My name is Matt Koble and I am the Director of Human Resources for Magnum Electric, an electrical contractor based in West Fargo, ND and has 3 other locations across the state.

I am here in support of Senate Bill 2056, of which changes current wording of the North Dakota Century Code. It does this to eliminate confusion on which entity can approve electrician apprenticeship program completion, then allowing the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) to approve apprentices in ND to sit for their Journeyman's Exam. I am also in support of the NDSEB being able to expend funds to help promote the electrical industry to future generations and help encourage them that the industry is a strong career choice for their futures.

What is currently happening, is that the Century Code as written states that all electrician apprenticeship training in ND needs to be approved by the (formally named) Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (currently named US Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Apprenticeship Training). In practice, the NDSEB has had the last say on which schools and/or apprenticeship programs have their curriculums approved in accordance with the electrical codes and practices of the State of ND. This is done for the benefit of consumers (homeowners, businesses, industries, etc.) by the NDSEB as a quality control measure, as not all schools and forms of education are equal. This education that NDSEB then approves, qualifies said apprentice electricians to test for their Journeyman's Exam, and some day also their Master's Exam with additional required experience. With current wording in the Century Code, the NDSEB doesn't truly have final say on which schools or programs are up to the standards of the NDSEB and ND.

With that current wording, our company currently has 2 apprentices that are qualified to test for their Journeyman's Exam today, but are not at this time allowed to do so as their education was not Federally registered as asked by the Century Code. In our business practices, we have not done so as the paperwork and compliance is an additional level of burden and our apprentices would only need to be registered with the DOL if we were to pay them an apprenticeship rate (lower pay rate) on Federal Prevailing Wage projects. We do not perform an abundance of these type of projects, and have instead opted to pay the full pay rates on these projects (apprentices paid at same level as Journeymen). These 2 apprentices have completed the required 576 hours of education from NDSEB approved schools (Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) and also North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS)) and 8,000 hours of experience as needed by the NDSEB. But because the schooling and hours were not "registered" with the US DOL, via the Century Code the NDSEB won't currently allow them to advance their careers that they have worked so hard towards over more than 4 years. Come May of this year, we will have an additional 5 apprentices stopped at the same point in their careers due to this current wording. In the following 3 years we would have an additional 18 apprentices stopped as well. To put that into comparison, please realize that we are only just one of the many electrical contractors that operate in this State and the others surely have apprentices that this Century Code wording is and will be impacting.

Attachment 23
Feb. 27, 2019
SB 2056

MAGNUM ELECTRIC

"Quality doesn't cost, it pays"

Changing of this wording will not lessen the importance of the US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship Training and the apprenticeship programs they oversee. It allows the NDSEB to be the final say when it comes to curriculum and the quality of these said programs, and again performing a type of quality control for the consumers of ND. The US DOL doesn't have set "standards" when it comes to apprenticeship education curriculum, nor do they approve or sanction providers of education. The US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship has more of a purpose to increase apprenticeship opportunities across many different trades and occupations, and provide strong paths to the middle-class for employees while also helping employers gain much needed skilled and educated staff during these times of tough hiring markets. In many cases, the US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship works directly with an organization or single employer to create an apprenticeship program via their set Federal standards. But, those standards more apply to the duration of on-the-job training, how advancement of wages occurs, and that education is a "requirement" but do not lay out whom provides said education or who is qualified to provide it. The US DOL, Office of Apprenticeship is doing its best for the individual benefit of employees and employers, while the NDSEB is looking out for the end users (consumers) of the electrical industry.

Giving the NDSEB the ability to also expend surplus funds to promote the electrical industry is also a must, as there is a nationwide mass shortage of electricians. Employers and industry spend a large amount of time promoting our trade to high schools and the general public already. The electrical industry is a strong path to a career that can support the families and other industries of North Dakota, but not enough people are aware of it. By having the NDSEB also support and promote the same industry it oversees, it creates new opportunities within the state for organizations to grow and in the long-term create a stronger, safer, and even more educated workforce.

In passing of Senate Bill 2056, it will allow the NDSEB to once again have the final say on which apprenticeship programs or schools meet the standards of North Dakota and this State's Journeyman and Master Electrician testing requirements. It will also allow the NDSEB to expend surplus funds to help promote the industry as a whole, and help grow future professional and knowledgeable electricians for the State of North Dakota.

Thank you for spending time to read through this testimony, and we ask for your support without amendments for Senate Bill 2056.

Sincerely,

Matt Koble
HR Director
Magnum Electric Inc

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