

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Deb Chroniak 271-1403

SB 135-FN, relative to the regulation of electricians.

Hearing Date: February 1, 2017

Time Opened: 9:25 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:30 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson and Reagan

Members of the Committee Absent : Senators Gannon, Soucy and Woodburn

Bill Analysis: This bill allows for the regulation of electrical installations done without compensation, authorizes voluntary inspection fees and identification of inspectors, and updates the National Electrical Code in the state building code.

Sponsors:

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Watters

Rep. Backus

Who supports the bill: Senator D'Allesandro, Steven Rancourt, ECBA; Dean Sotirakopoulos, Chief Electrical Inspector, Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC)

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator D'Allesandro, prime sponsor supplied a letter to Committee members from Peter Cicolini, Chairman of the Electricians' Board in support of this legislation and also brought forward an amendment to the bill (Amendment #0216s).

- Proposes several changes to RSA 319-C
- The bill, as proposed, strikes "for compensation" from RSA 319-C:1.
- This is brought in because there are some people who believe they do not need to be licensed by the Board if installing electrical installations outside of their own home, provided they do not charge.
- Change is to eliminate risks posed to the public, by requiring an electrical license for all installations, except those explicitly identified in statute as exempt.
- It does not eliminate homeowners exemption (RSA 319-C:15 II).
- The addition of RSA 319-C:5 V, in the original bill, clarified in the proposed amendment, allows an official, appointed by a city or town, to verify that a person performing electrical installations is properly licensed. Currently, there is no

statutory authority granting that ability.

- As found in the amendment, RSA 319-C:5, permits a third party electrical inspector to perform electrical inspections allowing entities who need a third party inspection, without additional fee from the Board, to choose from a list of approved inspectors maintained by the Board.
- This bill adopts the most “current version” of the National Electrical Code, RSA 155-A:1 IV, which imposes the most up-to-date safety protocols on electrical installation practices.
- The adoption of the 2017 National Electric Code, effective January 1, 2018, will permit time to educate and train on new codes.

Dean Sotirakopoulos, Chief Electrical Inspector, Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (in support):

- Here to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Steven Rancourt, Pelham, New Hampshire, Licensed Electrician, representing the Electrical Contractors Business Association (ECBA) (in support) (requesting additional change to the bill – amendment provided):

- Offering another amendment to the bill, which applies to a different section.
- RSA 319-C:7 III is presently confusing and this language clarifies. The addition of, “**to any electrical inspector appointed under this chapter...**”
- This has to do with people checking licenses. Gives authority for a state electrical inspector to check your license, but before this change, it was not defined.
- The Chairman of the Electricians’ Board was made aware of this change, and was okay with the change.
- Hoping it is a simple amendment for the committee to accept.

Senator Carson asked Mr. Rancourt if he had a copy of the new electrical code. Mr. Rancourt asked if she was looking for the 2017. **Senator Carson** stated yes. He did not have one with him. **Senator Carson** asked for one so that the committee could read and see what exactly was in this code. Mr. Rancourt stated, “Sure”. **Senator Carson** asked for this as soon as possible.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: No one

Hearing closed at 9:30 a.m.

Future Action: Pending

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 3, 2017

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