

PA10-027

SB133

General Law	29-33, 53-54, 73, 75-76, 87-88, 167, 169-174	19
House	1583, 1993-1995	4
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**H – 1078**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL.53  
PART 6  
1558 – 1869**

rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

17  
April 27, 2010

On page 19, Calendar 385 -- oh, I'm sorry, that was page 18, Calendar 385, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 127, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR REDEEMED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, favorable report of the Committee on Finance Revenue and Bonding.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to move some items to today's consent calendar. They are Calendar Numbers 385, 388 and 389. And I move those to be added to our -- today's consent calendar. SB127 SB133  
SB137

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Without objection, so ordered.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 95.

THE CLERK:

On page 28, Calendar 95, Substitute for House Bill Number 5220, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPETITION IN THE MOTOR FUEL INDUSTRY, favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The distinguished Chair of the General Law

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL.53  
PART 7  
1870– 2219**

rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 27, 2010

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5246 as amended by House "A."

Total Number voting 144

Necessary for adoption 73

Those voting Yea 125

Those voting Nay 19

Those absent and not voting 7

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 285.

THE CLERK:

On page 40, Calendar 285, House Joint Resolution Number 45, RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE DECISION OF THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER TO DISMISS THE CLAIM AGAINST THE STATE OF WAYNE SPARKS, favorable report of the Committee on Judiciary.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are now about to vote on today's consent calendar. These are items that we moved to the consent calendar in today's session.

The items are Calendar Number 274, 277, 278, 279,

HJ7 HJ14

HJ15 HJ19

HJ27 HJ45

HJ48 SB127

SB133 SB137

rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

428  
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282, 285, 286, 385, 388 and 389.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

The question before us is on passage of bills on today's consent calendar. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the chamber. The House is voting today's consent calendar by roll call. Members to the chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted the machine will be locked. The Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk, announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's consent calendar.

Total Number voting 144

Necessary for adoption 73

rgd/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

429  
April 27, 2010

Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The consent calendar passes.

Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON (46th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to move for the immediate transmittal of all items that we acted on today, the items that are requiring further action in the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to transmit immediately to the Senate all items acted on today that need further action in the Senate. Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, so ordered.

Any business on the Clerk's desk.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, a list of favorable reports on House joint resolutions.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

House Majority Leader Denise Merrill, nice to see you, Representative.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
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618 - 932**

cd  
SENATE

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April 21, 2010

refer this item also to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Moving to calendar page 8, Calendar 94, Senate  
Bill Number 133. Mr. President, move to place this  
item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar 96 is marked go.

Calendar 97, Senate Bill Number 310, Mr.  
President, move to place this item on the consent  
calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar 99, PR.

Calendar 100, Senate Bill Number 55, Mr.  
President, move to place this item on the foot of the  
calendar.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL. 53  
PART 4  
933 - 1266**

cd  
SENATE

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April 21, 2010

Mr. President, those items placed on the first consent calendar begin on calendar page 1, Calendar 405, House Joint Resolution Number 94; Calendar 406, House Joint Resolution Number 95.

Calendar page 2, Calendar 407, House Joint Resolution 96; Calendar 408, House Joint Resolution Number 97; Calendar 409, House Joint Resolution Number 98; Calendar 410, House Joint Resolution Number 99; Calendar 411, House Joint Resolution Number 100.

Calendar page 3, Calendar 412, House Joint Resolution 101; Calendar 391, Senate Resolution 15.

Calendar page 4, Calendar 392, Senate Joint Resolution 43.

Calendar page 5, Calendar 47, Senate Bill 137; Calendar 55, Senate Bill 148; Calendar 56, substitute for Senate Bill 150.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 66, Senate Bill 281; Calendar 71, Senate Bill 65; Calendar 74, Senate Bill 132.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 87, Senate Bill 184; Calendar 90, Senate Bill 255.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 94, substitute for Senate Bill 133; Calendar 97, substitute for Senate Bill 310; Calendar 103, substitute for Senate Bill 43.

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Calendar page 9, Calendar 117, Senate Bill 232.

Calendar page 10, Calendar 119, substitute for  
Senate Bill 261; Calendar 124, substitute for Senate  
Bill 251.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 149, Senate Bill 244.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 161, substitute for  
Senate Bill 258.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 180, substitute for  
Senate Bill 152.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 216, substitute for  
Senate Bill 256; Calendar 217, substitute for Senate  
Bill 201; Calendar 222, substitute for Senate Bill  
275.

Calendar page 15, Calendar Number 233, Senate  
Bill Number 97.

Calendar Number -- page 16, Calendar 239, Senate  
Bill 105.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 270, substitute for  
Senate Bill 234.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 296, substitute for  
House Bill 5138; Calendar 297, substitute for House  
Bill 5219; Calendar 298, House Bill 5250.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 301, House Bill 5263;  
Calendar 302, House Bill 5292; Calendar 303, House

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Bill 5265; Calendar 313, substitute for House Bill  
5002.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 314, House Bill 5201.

Calendar page 24, Calendar 340, substitute for  
Senate Bill 175.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 346, substitute for  
Senate Bill 151; Calendar 350, Senate Bill 333;  
Calendar 371, substitute for House Bill 5014.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 375, House Bill 5320.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 379, substitute for  
House Bill 5278; Calendar 380, substitute for House  
Bill 5452; Calendar 381, substitute for House Bill  
5006; Calendar 382, House Bill 5157.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 384, substitute for  
House Bill 5204.

Calendar page 29, Calendar 395, substitute for  
Senate Bill 127; Calendar 396, Senate Bill 147.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 413, House Bill 5024;  
Calendar 414, substitute for House Bill 5401.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 419, substitute for  
House Bill 5303.

Calendar 32 -- page 32, Calendar Number 421,  
substitute for House Bill 5388; and on calendar page  
34, Calendar 46, substitute for Senate Bill 68;

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Calendar 50, substitute for Senate Bill 17.

Calendar page 35, Calendar 64, substitute for  
Senate Bill 187.

Calendar page 37, Calendar 109, substitute for  
Senate Bill 189.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 148, substitute  
for Senate Bill 226.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 182, substitute for  
Senate Bill 218.

Calendar page 41, Calendar 188, substitute for  
Senate Bill 200.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed  
on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

All right. If the Clerk has made an announcement  
that a roll call vote is in progress in the Senate on  
the first consent calendar, the machine will be open.  
Senators may cast their vote.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the  
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to  
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on  
the consent calendar. Will all Senators please return  
to the chamber.

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THE CHAIR:

Would all Senators please check the roll call board to make certain that your vote is properly recorded. If all Senators have voted and if all votes are properly recorded, the machine will be locked, and the Clerk may take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 is passed.

Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege? Are there any announcements or points of personal privilege?

Senator LeBeau.

SENATOR LEBEAU:

Thank you, Mr. President, for a -- for an announcement.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**GENERAL  
LAW  
PART 1  
1 – 259**

**2010**

JOHN ARABOLÓS: Thank you.

REP. SHAPIRO: (Inaudible.)

A VOICE: -- predominantly, that's why he gave it to me.

REP. SHAPIRO: (Inaudible.)

LELAH CAMPO: Good morning. I'd like to thank you for hearing our testimony this morning. I'm testifying in support of Senate Bill 133. And just to give you a brief history, my first thank you of the day would be Senator Colapietro. For those of you that remember, for probably well over 20 years, there have been a rash of bills that address the apprenticeship to journeyman ratio in the State of Connecticut.

A couple of years ago, Senator Colapietro asked if we would withhold and suppress those continued issues and actually form a joint committee, so to speak, to take a bipartisan -- for lack of a better word -- look at the issue. And we formed a group of four that represent mostly the union perspective and four that represent more of the contractor perspective.

And if I could just briefly give credit to those folks that I'm representing here today. I was cochair with the committee. I'm Lelah Campo, President of Associated Builders and Contractors. Cam Champlin was also cochair with me from Local 777.

We're also represented by Larry Valeries, who represented both the independent electrical contractors and his own firm, Statewide Electric. We had John Barrasso, who

represented MCAC, Bob Hollis from Central Connecticut Fire Protection, Bob Macca with Macca Plumbing, Dave Roche, the Business Manager with Local Union 40 Sheet Metal Workers, and Carl -- and I'm sorry to say -- DiFasio -- DiFasio Director of Training for Local 35 IDEW.

And this represents the bill that's before you, over a year's worth of work for that committee. We met many times, sometimes several times a month. And we are very glad to come before you today. The bill that's before you does need a few technical changes.

There was some miscommunication in drafting, so just for the record on my written testimony we have submitted what it is supposed to look like. It gives you a new chart. There was also a typo. If you look at the left column that lists the number of apprentices, it should go in numerical order from one to nine and I believe number six was skipped inadvertently. And the trade should read electrical, plumbing, heating, piping and cooling, sprinkler fitter and sheet metal work.

But beyond those technical changes, which we understand are in progress of being changed, this is a -- a bill that both the open shop, the contractors association professionals and the unions are supporting. And we appreciate this committee, Senator Colapietro and the folk that worked with us on this. And going back many years Representative Corky, although, I always mess up your last name so I'm not going to butcher it publicly. But we would like to just thank everyone. And this bill is as far as I know unopposed.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: I want to thank you, Lelah and

Cam both and the unions and the nonunions as well to meet because this has been going on for a couple of years and you finally came up. And I was told and it really made me happy to hear this was the fact that when you started to talk you both -- both sides found out that there was things that they didn't even know about and could agree upon.

So I think I can speak for all the legislators that everybody is happy to see this bill finally come to fruition and go away because it comes up every year and dies. And we have to deal with it. So thank you all and I really do appreciate it. And we -- our intentions here would send it right over to Labor. And I think Representative Taborsak has a question for you.

REP. TABORSAK: Thank you, Senator.

Yeah. If you could just, for the folks that aren't up to speed exactly with where the ratios were in the past, can you kind of explain how this changes the current ratios?

LELAH CAMPO: (Inaudible.)

-- and then there was one that covered plumbing, heating, piping, cooling, sprinkler fitter and sheet metal work. So there were two separate charts. The electrical chart was a little bit more beneficial to the small mom and pop contractor because the way it read you could -- if you had one journeyman for lack of -- for layman's terms, if you had one teacher you could hire one apprentice.

But then in order to get to hire your second apprentice you had to have three teachers or three journeymen. And without bringing those apprentices along you could permanently limit

you to really being a one journeyman shop. And so this allows the smaller contractor to grow at a one-to-one and then a two-to-two before it goes to the three to one ratio.

So this really will help the smaller firm that before was really limited in being able to grow.

REP. TABORSAK: Okay. So, just so I understand you clearly, so then it changes the ratios for both electrician shops and for plumbing shops. Is that right?

LELAH CAMPO: It's changing plumbing, heating, piping, cooling, sprinkler fitter, and sheet metal and giving them the same ratio that electrical has always had.

REP. TABORSAK: I see. So, electrical is staying the same.

LELAH CAMPO: Yes.

REP. TABORSAK: Plumbing is being brought up to their ratios.

LELAH CAMPO: Correct.

REP. TABORSAK: Okay.

LELAH CAMPO: And then instead of having two separate ratios now we'll pretty much have one unified ratio for the state.

REP. TABORSAK: Thanks. That clarifies it for me.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: And just for your information, a little bit, thanks to Duke and Megan over here. They caught those little typos and the little changes that need to be fixed and they are in process of fixing that as well. Thank

you for your testimony.

Are there questions?

Okay. Bill DeDominicis. What's your name?

A VOICE: (Inaudible.)

BILL DeDOMINICIS: Good morning. My name is Bill DeDominicis. I would like to speak in favor of Raised Bill Number 128. In addition to being a bowling center owner, I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors Association. I'm going to address the portion of the bill that pertains to the bowling alley permit, which carries a license fee of \$2,250.

There are a total of 44 bowling centers in the state; 36 of them have full liquor licenses. All 31 of the ten-pin centers have a full license as well as five of the duckpin centers. I can't speak to how many of the remaining eight duckpin centers have licenses, but if they do it is for beer and wine only.

Ever since the early seventies when the bowling center permit became available it was the most expensive license along with coliseums. That was the case until the casino permit was created in the early nineties. For some reason, unknown to me, we were put in the same category as coliseums. If we had the alcohol sales of a coliseum for just one week there would not be a need for this bill. We do have -- we do not have the revenues that night clubs, coliseums, cafes and some clubs have.

In most cases, our lounges simply service the bowlers. Our regulations for the most part follow a restaurant permit and a cafe permit except for minor regulations and fewer serving

Thank you for your testimony.

Bob Dahn followed by Scott Basso.

ROBERT DAHN: Good afternoon committee chairs and committee members. My name is Robert Dahn, I'm on the Board of Directors of the National Society of Professional Surveyors. I'm the past President of the Connecticut Association of Land Surveyors and their current legislative liaison.

I'm here to speak in support of Raised Bill 132 as -- the 132 as presented. The language contained in this bill is language that representatives of the surveying community and the landscape architecture community worked in concert on last year and we support the language as presented. Just to be brief.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: Any questions from the Committee?

Thank you, Bob, for your testimony. That was good. Short and sweet.

ROBERT DAHN: Do you like that?

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: Scott Basso followed by Scott Basso. We have you twice down here.

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SCOTT BASSO: Good afternoon. My name is Scott Basso. I'm actually here from -- I'm on the legislative committee of the Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association, a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations and attract and educate and train necessary man power and represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents a hundred -- over 125 heating and

cooling companies in Connecticut.

The short of my written testimony is that we are in support of both the S.B. 133 Bill and the S.B. 131. We appreciate the changes and the strides that have been made to bring the apprenticeship ratios more in line with every other trade that -- that is governed by the state. And we appreciate the efforts that have gone into making that -- that happen. We would like to see further efforts made to reduce it to a one-to-one ratio but we realize that there really isn't the support at this time for that. But we are grateful and appreciative that we've been able to move to a more unified apprenticeship ratio program.

In regards to S.B. 131, in changing the retainage to 5 percent, we are also in favor of that bill. We think that it is -- it's very good for our constituents. Retainage can be held back. Retainage can definitely impact a small business owner like myself or any other contractor negatively.

Unfortunately, many contractors fail to even have a profit margin of the retainage. So they are under water until that retainage is paid, if ever. So we appreciate the efforts once again to move it to a -- to 5 percent. We think that is a very good bill and it's very favorable for our associates and all the member companies that we represent.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: Thank you.

I just think you probably already know my position on retainage. I just call it black mail money. That's all.

SCOTT BASSO: Exactly.

Champlin.

BILL ETHIER: Thank you, Representative Shapiro, Senator Colapietro. My name is Bill Ethier. I'm the Executive Director of the Homebuilders Association of Connecticut. We have about 1,100 members, companies across the state. We estimate that our members build between 70 and 80 percent of all the new housing units in the state. Here to testify on two bills today. And just very quickly on the hiring ratio bill, Senate Bill 133.

We're -- I'm happy to hear that the technical fixes will be to the bill. That was one of the comments I was going to make. It doesn't do what the intent does as currently written. I think it's a step in the right direction that -- to make all trade contractors the same as the current electrical contractors but I do want to really put you on notice that we are not part of the compromise. We were not involved in any of the negotiations and we still believe that the right way to go -- the common sense way to go is to make the hiring ratios one-to-one the same as the worksite ratios that we currently have in place.

So, you know, hopefully, I understand the political environment and that we're not going to get one to one. We fought that battle for 20 years as the Senator well knows. And I'm not going to get that whole loaf of bread. But I would've not -- what I would've argued for is a half of loaf and not a slice of bread. So hopefully in the future we can move it a little bit further down the road.

The other bill that I wanted to spend the rest of my time on is to express our opposition to 5137, which is the home improvement subcontractor lien bill. And I'd be

contractor their GC has been paid. You don't know if the home improvement contractor has complied with the contract. And the bill even talks about -- this only applies, this restriction on the primary residents of the homeowner. There's no way to know that as well.

So, we urge you -- I'd be interested to see what the actual issue is to try to work with you to craft better language but this language doesn't work. So, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: Yeah, Bill, just a little bit for your information, I heard pretty much the same thing you just said about the -- the liens from a couple of people already from attorneys back home and attorneys up here and you may be right.

The other thing that I wanted to note that the one-on-one was shot down because most businesses didn't want that. Those are the calls I got. And the reason for that was if you have one journeyman and he gets sick or he's going to be out for a couple of weeks, legally that -- that apprentice cannot function. So what do you do? Shut the business down?

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BILL ETHIER: No actually, in my view, legally what happens to that apprentice, because that apprentice is seen as a student. The apprentice not only is working on the jobsite on a one-to-one basis as a journeyman but they're taking course work. They have other things to do in the shop. So for -- if a journeyman is out sick, you know, for a few days that apprentice is not out of work. They can be working in the shop. They can be taking their class work. So they're not --

they're not out of business.

SENATOR COLAPIERTRO: Right. They could sweep the floor or something like that but that's not what they're being trained to do. They're being trained by the businesses themselves who are saying what do I do now. Put them on sweeping the floor? I need a house built. I don't need them sweeping floors. I mean, so that's what the arguments were -- that from me, anyways, from business.

BILL ETHIER: I understand that.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: And not union, businesses.

BILL ETHIER: I understand.

SENATOR COLAPIETRO: Thank you for your testimony.

Anybody else?

REP. SHAPIRO: Thank you for your testimony. And I'd like to discuss the 5137 aspect of your testimony. The bill was submitted to us in the Attorney General's package because the AG's Office had been receiving a number of complaints on this issue. They didn't bring a box like they did for the Condo Owners Association. But they did have a number of complaints from homeowners who had paid their general contractors in full and then the GCs had not paid the subcontractors and the subcontractors liened their homes through no fault of the homeowner who did whatever the homeowner was supposed to do.

Now, you said, oh, it's easy to get those liens discharged. But it's not that easy. You said the construction lawyers you talked about said it was easy. Of course they did. They were billing for it. They charge their

REP. SHAPIRO: Cam followed by Joyce Wojtes. Were you testifying on the same issue? Did you want to join together or -- okay.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro. My name is Cameron Champlin and I represent Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 777. I have two bills that I want to speak to today; Bill 5138. In section 12, there is some language that I think has to be added so that if somebody graduates from their apprenticeship there should be a time frame in which they have to obtain a license. They can't be an apprentice for the rest of their life. And I did speak to the Commissioner after he testified and he said let's work on something to come to that. So we will be doing that.

And on Bill 133 the ratio, as you know there's been a lot of arguments before you for many, many years. It's easy for somebody to just sit up here and say I think it should be one-to-one I think it should be three to one. I think it should be five to one. But we did an in-depth study as Senator Colapietro knows. We did it from both sides, the union and nonunion and we looked at every bit of data we could get before we came to this conclusion.

And I do want to say the only thing that was done after all the data was put together -- the only thing that was asked for by anybody was to go to this one-to-one, two-to-two, and then three-to-one after that which is the language that is being drafted now. The language as it is right now is not correct but as someone else has said before we're working on that to get it done and we will be in favor of the new language. And with that, I thank you very much for the opportunity to testify

today.

JOYCE WOTJES: Good afternoon. Joyce Wotjes, Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut and Local 777. I want to echo the comments on the Senate Bill 5138, Section 12 on apprenticeship training that Cam made. We do have to get some language on that.

And on the Raised Bill 133, John Barrasso from Mechanical Contractors worked with Cam and Lelah Campo and the others and we support it and support the corrected language. And I would like to also go on record in support of Raised Bill 131, the retainage, that 5 percent.

I've been on all sides of this issue in my lifetime career here at the capitol. And I was instrumental in getting the original retainage for the Department of Transportation reduced to 2-and-a-half percent. And the other -- we did go down to 5 percent at one time for Public Works and for the municipalities, however Public Works came back and wanted it back up to 10 percent. Then we negotiated the agreement for seven and a half on the private work.

So going down to five, the Mechanical Contractors support totally. And we'd probably go along with zero percent if it would go that way but we're practical. I thank you for your time and I hope I'm the last speaker.

REP. SHAPIRO: Questions from members of the Committee?

If not, thank you very much for your testimony.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: Thank you.

**GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 16,  
2010**

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the committee, we represent the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut. This testimony is in support of SB-133, not as written at this time but in favor of the language which is in the process of being drafted.

As many of you realize this issue of Apprentice to Journeyman ratios has been on the General Law Committee Agenda for many years. During the 2008 session the issue was again before this committee. There was always conflicting testimony from the Union and Non-Union organizations. In order to try to find a solution to this conflict Senator Colapietro asked that one person from each group act as co-chairs and select three others from each faction to form a committee which would compile all available information on this subject and try to come to a decision on what would be best for the industry.

The committee met on numerous occasions and did just that. It took over one year to collect all data from the Labor Department, Technical Schools and any other pertinent information to complete this study.

When the committee was satisfied that it had compiled all information available the following was the unanimous decision of the committee.

For the first Journeyman there shall be one Apprentice, for the second Journeyman there shall be a second Apprentice and for every three Journeyman thereafter there shall be one more Apprentice. I must emphasize that the entire committee agreed that this ratio was the best solution for the industry to ensure that we have properly trained apprentices and therefore the best trained Journeymen in the future. We ask that the members of this committee for their vote to move this bill forward. Remember one of Connecticut's greatest assets is its highly-trained workforce. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

If there are any questions please contact us at the numbers below.

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY CAMERON CHAMPLIN PHONE  
NUMBER (860) 443-9485 OR CELL (860) 287-0020 and JOYCE  
WOJTAS PHONE NUMBER (860) 691-3044 OR CELL (860) 280-  
4623**



## Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.



TO: The Honorable Tom Colapietro and Rep. Jim Shapiro  
Members of the General Law Committee

From: Lisa Hutner, Executive Director

Date: February 16, 2010

Re: **SB-133**, An Act Concerning Apprenticeship to Journeymen and Contractor Ratios

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) submits the following comments relative to **SB-133**, An Act Concerning Apprenticeship to Journeymen and Contractor Ratios.

Although we understand that the intent of the bill is to make the apprenticeship hiring ratio for plumbing, heating, piping, cooling, sprinkler fitter and sheet metal contractors consistent with the electrical and other trades, the bill, as drafted, does not accomplish this. It is our understanding that the bill will be redrafted to address this. We have no objection to making the apprenticeship hiring ratios consistent across the board.

However, the bill changes the ratio for the electrical and other trades by eliminating the 6:14 ratio for apprentices to journeymen. It is our understanding that this was done in error. We urge committee members to correct this error before acting on the bill.

*The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.*

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PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY  
JENN JENNINGS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

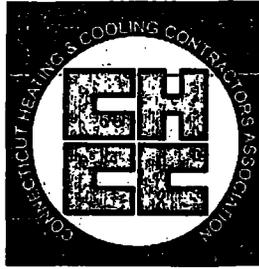
**The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) supports the intent of SB-133, An Act Concerning the Apprentice to Journeymen Contractor Hiring Ratios.**

We would like to thank Sen. Tom Colapietro for reaching out to union and non-union trade groups to develop a fair proposal that addresses inequities in the apprenticeship ratio for the plumbing, heating and cooling trades. We would also like to thank Rep. Jim Shapiro and the members of the committee for their support of this initiative.

It is our understanding that there is an agreement to make the numeric hiring ratio of apprentices to journeymen for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors consistent with the hiring ratio for the electrical and other trades and that the bill will be redrafted accordingly. Based on a review of factors such as the specific trade requirements and availability of skilled personnel, there is certainly no justification for having a different apprentice hiring ratio for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors and other trades

This minor change in the law will give plumbing, heating and cooling contractors the ability to expand their businesses and provide more apprenticeship training opportunities for Connecticut's young people. Clearly this is a win-win, particularly during these challenging economic times. .

*CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.*



**TESTIMONY  
SCOTT BASSO  
STEVE BASSO PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS (CHCC)  
BEFORE THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

Good afternoon. My name is Scott Basso. I am on the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut

**CHCC supports the intent of SB-133, An Act Concerning Apprentice and Journeymen Contractor Ratios, to make the hiring ratio of apprentices to journeymen for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors consistent with the hiring ratio for other trades. We understand that the bill is expected to be revised by the committee to reflect this change.**

This minor change in the ratio will give plumbing, heating and cooling contractors more flexibility to hire apprentices, which will allow our small businesses to grow and add jobs to the economy.

Although we have been - and continue to be - staunch supporters of efforts to authorize a one to one hiring ratio, we recognize that there is not sufficient support for this in the General Assembly at this time. We therefore urge support for the bill, with the revised language, as a good first step to addressing inequities in the apprenticeship ratio law.

We also encourage you to continue efforts to explore how the hiring ratio can be further modified in the future to allow contractors to hire additional apprentices while maintaining the one-to-one job site ratio, which will help us reduce costs, be more competitive and provide job opportunities and learning experiences for Connecticut's young.

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Jennings at CHCC, 22 Skyview Terrace, Manchester, CT 06040 or [jjennings@chcca.net](mailto:jjennings@chcca.net), Tel., 860-533-1163.*



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Lelah Camp, President of  
Associated Builders & Contractors

Before the General Law Committee on February 16, 2010

Supporting SB 133 AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMEN AND  
CONTRACTOR RATIOS

I testify today to respectfully urge the committee to vote in support of SB 133, AN ACT CONCERNING APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMEN AND CONTRACTOR RATIOS with the following changes. It is our understanding language will be changed to the chart shown below:

TRADE	
Electrical, Plumbing, Heating, Piping and Cooling, Sprinkler Fitter and Sheet Metal Work	
Apprentices	Licensees (Journeyman or Contractors)
1	1
2	2
3	5
4	8
5	11
6	14
7	17
8	20
9	23
Ratio continues at 3 Journeypersons To 1 apprentice	

With the support of Senator Colapietro, this bill is the result of over a year's work by a joint task force comprised of unions, contractors and association leaders who came to this agreement on ratio. We spent a great deal of time reviewing past testimony and the facts and issues surrounding ratio. We support this bill, as to be amended, and thank all that have worked together to draft this language.



**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**  
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 Tel: 860-521-1905 Fax: 860-521-3107 Web: [www.hbact.org](http://www.hbact.org)

*Your Home  
 Is Our  
 Business*

February 16, 2010

**To:** Senator Tom Colapietro and Representative Jim Shapiro, Co-Chairs, and members of the General Law Committee

**From:** Bill Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

**Re:** RB 133 AAC Apprentice to Journeymen Contractor Ratios

**The HBA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with 1,100 member firms statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens. Our members are residential and commercial builders, land developers, home improvement contractors, trade contractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry. We estimate that our members build 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state.**

**We support the intent, as it has been described to us, but not the language of RB 133, as a step in the right direction to fix CT's nonsensical trade hiring limitation. And, we firmly believe that even the intent does not go far enough to help grow the workforce in the licensed trades.**

**The limitation of the statutory 3:1 hiring ratio (i.e., after the first journeyman and first apprentice hired, you have to hire 3 journeymen to hire the next apprentice) increases project costs by forcing the nonunion contractor to hire extra journeymen before hiring an apprentice, contributes to manpower shortages, and denies younger persons additional opportunities to learn the trades. We understand the intent of the RB 133 is to change the hiring ratio for plumbing, heating, piping, cooling, sprinkler fitter and sheet metal to the current law applicable to electrical and other trades. The language of the bill does not do this. Moreover, we do not agree to this "compromise" reached between other organizations. We continue to urge that you change the hiring ratio to 1:1 primarily because public safety would be maintained since the current work site 1:1 ratio would not be affected.**

**A policy that requires anything more than a 1:1 hiring ratio of journeyman to apprentice severely limits the ability of nonunion trade businesses to hire apprentices. Union shops are not affected by this restrictive hiring ratio because the union-sponsored apprentice is indentured to the union hall and not to an individual employer. The arbitrary hiring restriction directly and adversely impacts the ability of homebuilders and remodelers to engage nonunion licensed contractors on a timely basis, adversely impacts the cost of these services and, thereby, increases the cost of home building and remodeling construction projects because our industry is almost entirely nonunion. A 1:1 hiring ratio will support young workers trying to learn a trade by offering them more apprenticeship opportunities and will help to provide needed workers to the residential industry.**

Testimony, Home Builders Association of Connecticut, Inc.  
RB 133, AAC Apprentice to Journeymen Contractor Ratios  
February 16, 2010, page 2

Neither the current 3:1 hiring ratio or the proposed intent of RB 133 protects the public's safety because licensed journeyman and apprentices can work on a job site on a 1:1 basis. The 3:1 ratio affects only hiring practices, not work site practices. That makes no sense!

**There is no justifiable argument for maintaining the current 3:1 hiring ratio.** Arguments made in the past by the Dept of Labor that it would not be able to ensure a work site 1:1 ratio if the hiring ratio is changed have no merit. The argument that, under a 1:1 hiring ratio, an apprentice cannot work if a journeyman is out sick also has no merit since apprentices are also undertaking and studying coursework and may perform other duties in the shop or elsewhere that do not require the 1:1 work site ratio for the brief time a journeyman might be out sick. Also, DOL can ensure the integrity of apprenticeship training under a 1:1 hiring ratio by simply making certain that reporting and paper trails are maintained and follow the apprentice if an apprentice moves to another employer.

**Moreover, the failure to change the hiring ratio in the licensed occupational trades adversely affects our ability to produce job placement benefits for students in our own workforce development program. Throughout the residential construction industry, including both the licensed and non-licensed trades, there have been periodic shortages of skilled workers to supply the industry's needs. These shortages have a direct impact on our industry's ability to supply the housing CT needs. The lack of housing supply in this state is a direct cause of our high housing prices and hampers both the willingness and ability of people to come here or stay here and, consequently, the ability of businesses to grow. The current hiring ratio restrictions are a contributing factor to our periodic workforce shortages in the licensed trades.**

**All students in the licensed trades, those being trained by unions and nonunion organizations alike, should have every opportunity available to them for placement and the current 3:1 hiring ratio adversely limits their options. The intended change of RB 133 is a small step in the right direction but until the law allows a common sense 1:1 hiring ratio, job growth will be stifled.**

**Please help the licensed trade portion of the residential construction industry grow its workforce and give younger people trying to enter the licensed trades greater options to obtain quality work. We urge the state to codify the practice of allowing a 1 to 1 hiring ratio of journeyman to apprentice. This important change will maintain current workplace safety rules and the current work site 1 journeyman to 1 apprentice ratio. It will remove a nonsensical barrier to nonunion trade contractors' ability to grow their companies or offer competitive bids on jobs. And it will help reduce the costs faced by home builders and home remodelers.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.