

PA 11-063

SB0480

House	9034-9037	4
Labor	106-111, 186-190	11
<u>Senate</u>	<u>1725, 1727-1729</u>	<u>4</u>
		19

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2011**

**VOL.54
PART 27
8965 – 9294**

concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	123
Those voting Nay	21
Absent not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill as amended is passed in concurrence with the Senate.

Mr. Clerk, kindly call Calendar 509.

THE CLERK:

On page 20, Calendar 509, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 480, An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses, favorable report of the Committee on General Law.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The Distinguished Chairman of the Labor Committee, Representative "Ironman" Zalaski.

REP. ZALASKI (81st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wonderful to be up here again today.

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence.

Explain the bill, please, sir.

REP. ZALASKI (81st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

This legislation permits those licensed trades personnel who have continuing education requirements to take a four-hour OSHA refresher course in place of their standard ten-hour course.

This provision would be beneficial to both the contractor and the employee, allowing for workers to obtain the necessary training as well as giving -- getting the workers back to the job site faster, and I move passage.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative Rigby.

REP. RIGBY (63rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's good to see the Distinguished Chair of the Labor Committee looking rested, relaxed, refreshed.

I rise in strong support of this bill. The bill passed both General Law and the Labor Committee on a unanimous vote, by partisan.

law/lxe/jr/fst/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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June 7, 2011

The bill makes it easier for plumbers and electricians to meet the OSHA-mandated safety requirements, and I urge its passage.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Thank you, sir.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members take your 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 by roll call.

Members to the chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Have all the members voted?

And now that all the members have voted, the machine will be locked.

The Clerk will take a tally.

Representative Miner, for what purpose do you rise?

In the affirmative?

REP. MINER (66th):

In the affirmative, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Miner in the affirmative.

And, Mr. Clerk, if you would kindly announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 480, in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting 145

Necessary for Passage 73

Those voting Yea 145

Those voting Nay 0

Absent not Voting 6

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

The bill is passed in concurrence.

Mr. Clerk, 176, please.

THE CLERK:

On page 5, Calendar 176, Substitute for House Bill Number 6407, AN ACT ALLOWING EMPLOYERS TO PAY WAGES USING PAYROLL CARDS, FAVORABLE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Zalaski.

REP. ZALASKI (81st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's "Zalaski."

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**LABOR AND
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
PART 1
1 – 376**

**2011
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LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
COMMITTEE

February 10, 2011
2:00 P.M.

kid.

KIA MURRELL: Thank you.

SENATOR PRAGUE: So we have a few people -- thank
you, Kia.

We have a few people who want to testify on 480
and Paul Costello and Kyle Zimmer and, let's
see, Cameron Champlin, Annie MacDonald --

A VOICE: Joyce.

SENATOR PRAGUE: -- and Joyce.

Is that going to fill -- is that enough chairs
up there for everybody?

Hurry up, Joyce, and grab a chair.

Let's see. We have Cameron, Joyce -- Annie
MacDonald is she here? No.

Okay. And, Paul Costello, are you here? Okay.
That's it.

Okay. Thank you.

Okay. Somebody start.

A VOICE: Turn your mic on.

PAUL COSTELLO: Got it.

Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, members
of the committee of Labor and Public Employees,
my name is Paul Costello, and I'm here today to
testify on behalf of the IBW International
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the
National Electrical Contractors Association
Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. We're

SB480

here to express our support for Senate Bill 480, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION SAFETY REFRESHER COURSE TRAINING.

The IBW fully supports the requirements of OSHA 10 training for all workers on construction sites as stated in the current law. The IBW was active in the writing of the original proposal -- proposed bill and suggesting amendments since its inception.

The OSHA Outreach Training Program is designed to train workers in the basics of occupational safety and health and construction. A ten-hour course raises the awareness of the hazards associated with the construction work and is only an orientation to occupational safety and health. Workers must receive additional training on specific hazards associated with their jobs as stated by federal OSHA. Upon successful completion of the training, the individuals are issued a completion card from federal OSHA. The individual safety training does not end after they complete their OSHA 10 training. Most workers complete weekly on-the-job safety talks that are specific to the hazards they are exposed to on the site.

Licensed electricians and plumbers began taking required continuing ed classes in 2005 in order to renew their licenses. Part of the mandatory topics for continuing education courses are the same materials covered in an OSHA 10 course.

I have been as OSHA Outreach instructor since 2001, and I've provided training to hundreds of construction workers each year with OSHA 10 training. In addition to teaching OSHA classes, I also instruct and teach our continuing education courses for licensed electricians. Each year, we nearly train --

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over 1200 electricians attend our course many of them also having taken an OSHA training with us. Most have requested that we change the topics that we cover during class not realizing that OSHA has a specific outline requirement that we must cover.

The IBW feels that the information OSHA requires for a ten-hour course can easily be accomplished between the combination of safety topics covered in continuing ed and additional four hours of OSHA training within that five years provided this training is conducted by an authorized OSHA Outreach trainer.

A four-hour refresher course for persons that possess an OSHA 10- or 30-hour card that has been issued prior combined with a continuing education in training over a five-year period, will keep them abreast of the safety issues. Requiring the trainer to be an authorized OSHA trainer will ensure that the latest changes to construction standards will be covered in the refresher courses. This combined with weekly on-the-job training and yearly continuing education requirements that include construction safety specific to the hazards associated with the workers job will make certain workers receive up to date information. This information is more relevant to the workers once they have their initial orientation in training covered by federal OSHA.

I'd like to thank you for your time and ask for your support Senate Bill 480. Thank you.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Do you all feel the same way? Is all your testimony the same? Anybody differ with that?

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LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
COMMITTEE

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2:00 P.M.

A VOICE: Go ahead.

A VOICE: I just -- no, I don't.

KYLE ZIMMER: No, I don't, also. I'm Kyle Zimmer
from the Operating Engineers --

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

KYLE ZIMMER: -- Local 478, and even though we don't
have the licensing requirements, all the safety
issues that Paul brings up rings true with I
think construction workers in the state of
Connecticut, and we feel very strongly that the
refresher has to be defined. I think this is
our third go around with this -- with this bill
in various forms. Last year it got shot down
because it called for adding some people to the
State -- to the Labor Department to administer
the refresher program. Obviously, in today's
economic times, we can live with administering
it ourselves.

The one problem that I don't want to see is it
becoming a fraudulent program much like some of
the federal programs have done with the
construction safety with it becoming a card
factory where the instructor just sends in a
roster, they get the cards and they go. I
think we have to keep and police ourselves to
keep this, the program, credible and make sure
that the workers that deserve the training get
the training and put it to use in the field.

Thank you.

SENATOR PRAGUE: I just want to bring to your
attention that the bill says that the plumbers
and electricians, subject to the continuing
education requirements of a certain section in
our statute, those are the ones -- and who have

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completed the 10 hours; those are the union guys who within five years later have a four-hour refresher course. The other trades have to do the 10. Okay? Plumbers and electricians who have been -- have had ongoing continuing education courses.

KYLE ZIMMER: No, repeat for any trade that completed the term initially I believe.

SENATOR PRAGUE: You know, since the Kleen explosion -- Kleen Energy plant explosion, we've been very concerned about the OSHA training, and I -- if I am correct and you can correct me if I'm not -- the plumbers and electricians who have not had ongoing continuing education courses and who completed their 10-hour OSHA training to begin with are the two trades who within five years will have a four-hour refresher; is that correct, Cam?

KYLE ZIMMER: Correct.

SENATOR PRAGUE: The other trades have to have the 10-hour.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: The reason -- excuse me Senator.

SENATOR PRAGUE: No, go ahead, Cam.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: The reason being that that's mandated by the state of Connecticut so there is a way to keep track of who did and who didn't. I have to renew my license every year; and every other year I have to prove that I have had five hours of CEUs.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: Continuing education. And that is why just, at this time, the only ones that

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have continuing ed is plumbers --

SENATOR PRAGUE: -- plumbers and electricians.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: And electricians. That's why
they are the only two that are stated in there.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay. Just want to make sure.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: Thank you very much. I concur
with the previous speakers.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

JOYCE WOJTAS: Joyce Wojtas representing the
Mechanical Contractors Association of
Connecticut, and we employ plumbers and we
concur with the previous speakers in support of
the bill.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

CAMERON CHAMPLIN: And my name is Cameron Champlin.
I represent Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local
777.

Thank you very much for being here to listen.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Thank you.

REP. ZALASKI: Thank you.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Yes, Joyce.

JOYCE WOJTAS: I have one other bill that I'd just
like to briefly comment on.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Okay.

JOYCE WOJTAS: And that was the prequalification
bill with the Department of Administrative

SB850



LOCAL 90

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

2 NORTH PLAINS INDUSTRIAL ROAD WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
203-265-9267 FAX 203-265-9312SEAN W. DALY
REPRESENTATIVE**Testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers****Labor Committee****February 10th, 2011**

Senator Prague, Representative Zelaski, and members of the Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to ask your support for a number of the bills before you today.

First and foremost, the IBEW supports SB 480, AAC Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses. The IBEW supports construction safety (OSHA) training and was instrumental in the passage of the original Connecticut law establishing the requirement that workers on public works projects complete a 10 hour OSHA Safety Training course. However, as this law has been implemented, it turned out that taking the 10 hour course every five years, as Connecticut mandates, was contrary to what is established by federal OSHA and quite duplicative for those who also take continuing education courses every year. Much of the same information is covered in both courses, and the IBEW feels it would be a better use of time for both workers and trainers if the course was reduced to a minimum of 4 hours every five years after the completion of the first 10 hour course. We appreciate the committee raising this bill and strongly support it.

The IBEW would also like to state support for SB 850, AAC the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Transportation, and Prequalification and Evaluation of Contractors. We supported this bill last year, and note that this year's bill is an improved version as it is more comprehensive than last year's version. We support efforts to strengthen the prequalification process for contractors on public works projects and feel this bill should pass.

Lastly, the IBEW supports SB 798, AA Requiring Double Damages to be Awarded in Civil Actions to Collect Wages, and we request that the Committee support it as well.

Thank you,

Sean Daly
IBEW Local 90



**LABOR COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING - February 10, 2011
TESTIMONY**

**RE: SB 480 – AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION SAFETY REFRESHER
TRAINING COURSES**

**Submitted by: Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut (MCAC)
Presented by: Joyce A. Wojtas, Lobbyist**

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut (MCAC) supports Raised Bill No. 480 concerning construction safety refresher training courses that allows licensed plumbers and electricians who participate in Department of Consumer Protection mandated continuing education requirements and obtain a certificate of continuing education required under C.S.C. 20-334d to take a four-hour OSHA refresher training course every five years rather than a ten-hour training course every ten years.

MCAC employs plumbers licensed under Chapter 393 of the CT. General Statutes. Subsection (c) of Sec. 20-334d licensed plumbers are required to participate in a total of seven hours of accredited continuing professional education every two years, except in the event of significant changes to the building code, as approved by the international Code Council, that relate to plumbing. The Consumer Protection Commissioner has the authority to require more than seven hours of training every two years if necessary.

Safety training is and always has been a top priority for the members of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut and the people they employ. This bill recognizes that the accredited continuing professional education requirements mandated by the DCP statute Sec. 20-334d is an important part of the overall training required under DOL statute Sec. 31-53b.

MCAC urges your support for this bill.

For additional information:
Joyce A. Wojtas jawojtas @myway.com
860-280-4623

LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Senator Prague Representative Zalaski and members of the committee, my name is Cameron Champlin and I represent Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB-480.

I have been a member of Local 777 for 45 years and have worked on construction projects which have included everything from residential housing to Nuclear Power Plants. I know how important safety is in every aspect of construction. This bill would not in any way reduce the knowledge of safety requirements that construction workers have to possess in order to perform their tasks in a safe and efficient manner. When anyone obtains a Federal OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 certification card they are not required to take any other upgrade courses ever. The State of Connecticut requires any employee on a State funded project to have completed at least an OSHA 10 course in the previous five years. This is certainly a good idea for everyone involved, however if someone has completed a minimum of an OSHA 10 course and then is required to take a refresher course of four hours along with the other requirements of continuing education in order to renew their license we believe that would be sufficient to retain the level of safety needed on these projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter. If any member of the committee wishes to discuss this matter further I would be happy to talk with them. I can be contacted at camc@att.net or cell (860) 287-0020.

**Testimony of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Thursday February 10, 2011**

Senator Prague, Representative Zelaski, members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees, my name is Paul Costello, I am here to testify on behalf of the IBEW, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and National Electrical Contractors Association Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee to express our Support of Senate Bill 480, An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses.

The IBEW fully supports the requirement of OSHA 10 training for all workers on construction sites as stated in the current law. The IBEW was active in the writing of the original proposed Bill and suggesting amendments since its inception.

The OSHA Outreach Training Program is designed to train workers in the basics of occupational safety and health in construction. The ten hour course raises the awareness of the hazards associated with construction work and is only an orientation to Occupational Safety and Health. Workers must receive additional training on specific hazards associated with their jobs as stated by Federal OSHA. Upon successful completion of the training the individuals are issued a course completion card from Federal OSHA.

The individual's safety training does not end after they complete their OSHA 10 training. Most workers complete weekly on-the-job safety talks that are specific to the hazards they are exposed to on the site. Licensed electricians and plumbers began taking required continuing education classes in 2005 in order to renew their licenses. Part of the mandatory topics for continuing education courses are the same materials covered in an OSHA 10 course.

I have been an OSHA Outreach Trainer since 2001 and have provided training to hundreds of construction workers each year with OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 hour courses. In addition to teaching OSHA classes I also teach our Continuing Education course for licensed electricians. Each year nearly 1,200 electricians attend our course; many of them have also taken their OSHA training with us. Most have requested that we change the topics that we cover during a class not realizing that OSHA has a specific outline requirement that we must cover.

The IBEW feels that the information OSHA requires for a ten hour course can be easily accomplished between the combination of the safety topics covered in continuing education and an additional four hours of OSHA training every five years, provided this training is conducted by an authorized OSHA outreach trainer. A four hour refresher course for persons that possess an OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 card that has been issued prior combined with their continuing education training over the five year period will keep them abreast of the safety issues. Requiring the trainer to be an authorized OSHA outreach trainer will ensure that the latest changes to the Construction Standards will be covered in the refresher courses. This combined with weekly on-the-job safety training and yearly continuing education requirements that include construction safety specific to the hazards associated with the workers job will make certain that workers receive up to date information. This information is more relevant to workers once they have completed the initial orientation training covered by federal OSHA.

Thank you for your time and we ask that you support Senate Bill 480.

Respectfully,

Paul Costello
Director of Apprenticeship and Training

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL UNIONS 478, 478A, 478C, 478D, 478E

AFFILIATED WITH



THE AFL-CIO

1965 DIXWELL AVENUE
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TELEPHONE (203) 288-9261
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Testimony Offered in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 480- An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Kyle Zimmer, the Lead Health & Safety Instructor for I.U.O.E Local 478 Training and I am here today testifying on behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 478, an organization representing over 3,500 workers in the construction industry in Connecticut.

We first want to thank you for raising this bill. We feel that Senate Bill 480 will help to keep the construction workers of Connecticut safer by expanding the OSHA 10 requirements for individuals so they can be updated on key safety practices, any safety laws or regulations and to be informed on new technologies. Requiring construction workers to undertake refresher training on a regular four years basis for four hours will keep them better informed with regard to changes in safety in the construction industry.

I think that you would agree that anything that will encourage safety or teach workers about safety is sure to result in better worksites, and a reduction in injuries. Local 478 believes that this improvement to the OSHA 10 statute will have a positive impact on worker safety in the industry.

Requiring individuals to undertake a refresher course will serve to inform individuals in the construction field on safer ways to do their jobs, and will remind them just how dangerous their chosen field of work can be.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for your continued interest in enhancing the safety of construction workers in the State of Connecticut.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

Calendar 49, Senate Bill 480, Madame President move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Madame President moving to Calendar page 36,
Calendar 232, Senate Bill 835, Madame President move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Moving to Calendar page 37, Madame President,
Calendar 238, Senate Bill 1062, move to place this item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President.

Moving to Calendar page 42, Calendar 384, Senate Bill 377, move to place that item also on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

before doing that and before voting on that Consent Calendar, we have one additional item to add which is Calendar page 40, Calendar 327, House Bill 6330.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madame President. Now if the Clerk might call all of the items on the Consent Calendar before calling for a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk will you please call the bills?

THE CLERK:

From Calendar page 1, Calendar 489, Senate Joint Resolution 47; Calendar page 8, Calendar 226 substitute for Senate Bill 1153; Calendar page 9, Calendar 233, substitute for Senate Bill 1064; Calendar page 9, Calendar 248, Senate Bill 1150; Calendar page 11, Calendar 301, substitute of Senate Bill 518; Calendar page 12, Calendar 332, House Bill 6444; Calendar page 15, Calendar 407, substitute of Senate Bill 1209; Calendar page 16, Calendar 411, House Bill 6370; Calendar page 17, Calendar 415, House Bill 6275; Calendar page 17, Calendar 418, House Bill 6276; Calendar page 18, Calendar 424, House Bill 6270;

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May 12, 2011

Calendar page 21, Calendar 453, substitute for House Bill 6279; Calendar page 28, Calendar 49, substitute for Senate Bill 480; Calendar page 34, Calendar 173, Senate Bill 1047; Calendar page 36, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 835; Calendar page 37, Calendar 238, substitute for Senate Bill 1062; Calendar page 39, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 737; Calendar page 42, Calendar 384, substitute for Senate Bill 377.

That completes the items previously placed on the Consent Calendar.

Madame President, I am told that there is one more item to place. Page 40, Calendar 327. HB6330

And, one other correction, Madame President. On page 39, Calendar 302, that was voted on previously, SB737 so we take that off the Consent Calendar.

That should complete the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. At this time I would ask you to call for a roll call vote and I will open the machine.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is voting on the first Consent Calendar. Would all Senators please return to the Chamber? The Senate is voting on the first Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the

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SENATE

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May 12, 2011

Chamber?

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?
If all members have voted the machine will be locked
and Mr. Clerk, will you tell the tally?

THE CLERK:

Madame President

Total Number voting 36

Necessary for adoption 19

Those voting Yea 36

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar 1 has passed, is adopted.

The Senate will stand at ease for a moment,
please.

(Chamber at ease)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madame President, if we might stand at ease for
just a moment.