

To: House Commerce and Economic Development Committee Feb 13, 2012

From: Lonny Wright, proponent

Subject: HB 2666 Experience for Building Trades

Honorable Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee Members,

I am Lonny Wright, a second generation master plumber from Wichita.

I serve on the Wichita Plumbing Board, am secretary of the Mechanical Trades Advisory Council and secretary of our Kansas Mechanical Trade Stakeholders (KMTS). The KMTS are requesting these statute changes for the plumbing, mechanical and electrical trades.

For hundreds of years, tradespersons have learned their professions by apprenticing under the supervision of someone experienced. In Kansas, jurisdictions have recognized this value by requiring field experience before taking an exam.

However when we expanded to three providers of the state standard examination, a popular provider, the International Code Council, was unable to restrict online applicants to only those applying through a jurisdiction. Thus we have people without experience receiving certifications to practice the plumbing, mechanical and electrical trades.

The Stakeholders recommend that jurisdictions verify experience after someone passes the examination. This would provide efficiency in that only one trip, instead of two, would be needed to obtain the state certificate.

As secretary, I sent out the Stakeholders 4 questions to 150 addressees, who then forwarded them to their organizations. We didn't have a consensus on two questions and we are not proposing them. We only propose the changes in the Bill being presented.

Please support this bill.

Respectfully,

Lonny Wright, Juris Doctor

Master Plumber

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