

**Business Development  
National Electrical Contractors Association  
CT Labor Management Cooperation Committee**



**Bill Finch**  
2 North Plains Industrial Road  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
bill@ctncc.org

Phone: 203-333-2000  
1-800-428-1903  
Fax: 203-265-9312

**General Law Committee Public Hearing**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**Testimony on**

**HB 6445 - An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection**

Chairman D'Agostino, Chairman Maroney, Ranking Member Witkos, Ranking Member Rutigliano and members of the General Law Committee, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) is the voice of the \$130 billion industry responsible for bringing electrical power, lighting, and communications to buildings and communities across the United States. NECA has 119 local chapters across the country representing over 3,000 companies nation-wide and in Connecticut we fight for the interests of about 60 companies who support our labor-management cooperative. NECA supports the electrical contracting industry through advocacy, education, research, and standards development.

The name of this proposed bill is very deceptive. If this bill were to become law, it would not expand economic opportunity. It will be a job killer. Connecticut businesses, highly skilled and safety conscious electrical contracting companies, will lose jobs to companies from other states. About 30% of electricians are currently out of work. Why would we want workers from other states to come here and raise that even higher? We all want Connecticut to create more jobs and promote a healthy economy. This bill will create more unemployment, hurt Connecticut businesses and see electrical contractors from other states take payrolls and taxpayer money back to other states. This bill does exactly the opposite of what it says in its title.

Others will testify as to how this bill will seriously jeopardize the electrical apprenticeship programs and thereby the quality and safety of electrical work performed in our State. This proposal will allow people to waive into Connecticut perhaps never having completed an apprenticeship program. Electricity is very dangerous to work with and the building trades are some of the most dangerous jobs in America. Our Connecticut electrical contractors participate in the most rigorous apprenticeship program in the United States. It has kept our workers safe and highly skilled. This bill would make our workers and in fact the entire State less safe.

Please defeat this proposal.

Thank you.

Bill Finch