



Independent Electrical Contractors Rocky Mountain (IECRM)

SB 120: Apprentice Examinations and Professional Licenses.

Everyone agrees that more licensed Journeyworkers are needed to meet the demand for skilled trades and that positively incentivizing an individual to complete training and requirements for become licensed is a good thing. After review of the bill and existing regulations, there is consensus within the IECRM community that there is a better approach than this bill outlines.

IECRM respectfully requests the following:

1) We would like electricians to be exempt of this bill until we can determine that the electrical industry has this issue.

2) Rather than legislative action now, allow time for previous changes to electrical licensure, apprentice education and continuing education to take effect and be analyzed by DORA. Work with DORA to understand and support what their needs are to encourage and continue system development. Request that DORA and the State Electrical Board use existing administrative rule-making authority to clean up the registered apprentice list, build up/analyze data and develop recommendations for incentivizing a "ready to test" apprentice. Any required legislative action as a result of this review, can be developed and supported by the broader stakeholder community in the next or future legislative session.

3) Amend bill to add a new classification for an apprentice that has completed OJT and/or classroom hours but that has not/or does not want to test for the JW using the identification "Apprentice Graduate." In this proposed amendment, Apprentice Graduates (or similar agreed upon occupational term) would be required to complete the state-mandated 24 hours of continuing education courses every 3 years or be subject to Electrical Board suspension/action for failure to complete educational requirements. At a minimum, an Apprentice Graduate would be required to complete DORA/state-approved NEC code classes if there is no consensus to complete 24 hours of CEUs.

More data is needed to further define the problem. Recent regulations supporting apprenticeship training, licensure and continuing education need time for full implementation. DORA and the State Electrical Board already have the administrative and enforcement authority needed. There are other approaches to positively incentivize an individual to test for licensure rather than negative reinforcement or stigma.

- Colorado Electrical Apprentice Data:

	Count	Percentage
Active Apprentice Prior to 2015	3987	31%
Active Apprentice Post 2015	9043	69%

**IEC currently has 2600 active apprentices enrolled in apprenticeship training in Colorado*

Apprentices ready to test for licensure may not want to test for the following reasons:

- Do not want the responsibility of managing projects or people
- Learning disabilities
- Test anxiety

Being an electrician is a high skilled, lifelong learning, sustainable living wage professional occupation with a projected growth rate of 10% over the next decade (faster than average). Over the last six years, the entire electrical industry in Colorado has worked together collaboratively and collectively to increase education and training requirements to ensure a safe and productive personal and professional work environment.