

March 27, 2017

SB17-247

1<sup>st</sup> Electric Contractors supports SB17-247 in its entirety. This support is predicated on two points of opinion directed at both sections of the Bill.

1. The current JW electrical test, issued in its current testing format, requires new potential Journeyman to study and prepare at a very high level in order to be successful. In our opinion, the preparation and ability required to pass this test is higher than it has ever been in Colorado. The added requirement to take successful candidates that do pass the test and immediately require 24 credit hours of PDU credit is a unnecessary and redundant step. These men and women have studied, completed the hours of education required by the State, and should be placed on the permanent cycle moving forward.
2. It is the opinion of 1<sup>st</sup> Electric Contractors that all inspectors at the State Level should be qualified to inspect installed work and should possess a working knowledge of electrical product, code applications, and installation practices. While we do support any additional Certifications or coursework that may be applicable, the review and subsequent pass or fail of any given inspection should be by those who have a working knowledge at a minimum equal to the requirements of the installer(s).

Douglas Link



Vice President of Operations

From: Marilyn Akers Stansbury [marilyn@iecrm.org](mailto:marilyn@iecrm.org)  
Subject: SB247  
Date: Mar 26, 2017, 9:31:55 PM  
To: [marilyn@iecrm.org](mailto:marilyn@iecrm.org)

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**From:** Jim Dent <[jdent@weifieldgroup.com](mailto:jdent@weifieldgroup.com)>  
**Date:** March 26, 2017 at 12:59:52 PM MDT  
**To:** Marilyn Akers Stansbury <[marilyn@iecrm.org](mailto:marilyn@iecrm.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: SB247

Marilyn, CRS 12-23-115-B has required "two years practical experience in the electrical inspection of residential buildings". One problem is the fact that there is no definition of how much training is actually required. Two years is a very broad term. A licensee in the State has to prove 2000 hours per year of training under a RW or JW. The RW or JW overseeing the residential installation is much more qualified than the inspector and is required by CRS to get 24 hours CECs every three years. The ICC Credential person does not have the same requirements.

The fact of the matter is this;

1. The majority of structure fires in Colorado are residential fires.
2. The rate of deaths per 1000 fires is much higher for residential fires as compared to non residential fires.
3. The rate of injuries per 1000 fires is much higher for residential fires.

I would argue that the most important inspections taking place in Colorado are home inspections. Yet, Colorado law allows unqualified persons to perform electrical inspections for residential properties. The people of Colorado would be much safer if CRS was revised to require licensees to perform electrical inspections in my opinion.

Good Luck! If my Board meeting gets out early I will see if I can make it down to the Capital.

**Jim Dent**

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

From: Marilyn Akers Stansbury [marilyn@iecrm.org](mailto:marilyn@iecrm.org)  
Subject: SB247  
Date: Mar 26, 2017, 9:28:40 PM  
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**From:** Sue-Steve Conrad <[Conrad900@msn.com](mailto:Conrad900@msn.com)>  
**Date:** March 26, 2017 at 12:01:09 PM MDT  
**To:** Marilyn Akers Stansbury <[marilyn@iecrm.org](mailto:marilyn@iecrm.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: SB247

**Section 1** of the bill is a technical cleanup on an unresolved issue related to HB 16-1073, a bill supported by the electrical industry last year to streamline the Continuing Education process for licensed electricians.

However, in last year's bill we inadvertently still required new electricians to take the exam and the 24 credit hours. DORA flagged this issue and under SB 247 new electricians will not have to take the 24 credit hours of continuing education for the first renewal cycle after they test for their license.

Response; Exempting newly licensed persons has been standard procedure since the implementation of the CCA as these people have passed a 100 question exam to obtain their license. The exam covers a broad array of electrical code requirements that far exceeds the scope of the CCA and to require 24 hours of continuing education would impose burdensome and unnecessary hardship. This same approach should be extended to the continuing education requirements.

**Section 2** of the bill essentially requires that those inspectors that conduct electrical inspections for small residential dwellings must pass a written residential wireman's test. The electrical industry supports this legislation because we believe that when work is being done in a regulated industry where licensed, trained professionals are installing electrical systems into Coloradans homes that that a licensed residential wireman with direct knowledge of these complex systems should perform the inspections.

Response; I have worked in the electrical trade/industry since 1971 and have been a part of tremendous advances in the trade. Below is just a small list of my thoughts

regarding residential electrical inspectors;

- a. Non- electrical licensed inspectors do not have the hands-on knowledge and experience to conduct inspections to the level that ensures the safety of the installations they inspect.
- b. Details matter! Being able to confirm such items as conductor size and proper over-current device settings (which could create a fire hazard if not correct) is not typically taught to a non-electrical licensed inspector. I could list hundreds of examples of such small but important items but with-out the actual wiring experience public safety cannot be assured.
- c. Technology is changing in the electrical trade at a blistering pace. Five (5) new articles were added to the 2017 NEC and we see new items on job sites at almost every inspection.
- d. Code changes; The NEC is revised every 3 years. The 2017 is just now being implemented and proposals for the 2020 version are due by late 2017. In my 45+ years in the trade I think the residential requirements have been most impacted by the code/technology changes and it requires many hours of study to stay current.
- e. In Colorado only two construction trades are licensed by the State; Electrical and Plumbing. This is because public safety can and will be impacted by improper installations and I believe only properly licensed "experts" should be inspecting work done by trained and licensed tradespersons.

Stephen D. Conrad

Chief Electrical Inspector

Colorado State Electrical Board, Retired