

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 155

H. P. 122

House of Representatives, January 26, 1977

Referred to Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Kany of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning the Practical Training of Electricians.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows :

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 1101, sub-§ 3, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 767, § 32, is further amended by inserting before the last sentence the following new sentence:

A master electrician, who teaches an electrical course at a Maine regional technical-vocational center or a Maine vocational-technical institute, may have a maximum of 12 helper electricians under his direct supervision while making electrical installations which are a part of the instructional program of the school, provided the total value of each installation does not exceed \$1,000.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 1202, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 767, § 37, is further amended to read:

2. Apprentice or helper. The board may issue a license upon payment of a fee of \$3 to any person who applies therefor, without examination, provided such applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board that he has entered the employ of a licensed electrician as an apprentice electrician or to assist him as an electrician's helper or is a full-time student in an electrical course at a regional technical-vocational center or a vocational-technical institute. Any such person employed by an electrician as an apprentice for the purpose of qualifying for any license mentioned in section 1203, or as electrician's helper, shall apply for a license as such immediately after commencing such employment or immediately after starting school in an electrical course.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The present wording of Title 32 allows each master or journeyman electrician to have one helper working with him or under his personal supervision. This means that if an electrician training course, having a master electrician as the instructor, undertakes any outside practical work only one student may actually be working at a time. Since all educational courses have a considerable number of students per instructor and only the student doing work is benefitting from the experience, outside projects are unworkable and therefore cannot be legally undertaken.

Actual wiring situations can only be partially duplicated in a school shop and therefore training courses which are limited to school shops cannot be fully effective in preparing graduates as competent electricians.

This one to one requirement which tends to limit the effectiveness of the training programs seems to contradict another provision of Title 32. This provision refers to Title 20, section 2361, which recognizes the qualifications of vocational-technical institute graduates by allowing them to become licensed journeymen electricians by passing the standard state examination. It would seem logical to allow the educational institutions the opportunity to better prepare their graduates by permitting outside projects under responsible supervision. The projects should, of course, be limited in size so that work undertaken does not substantially interfere with the rights of local contractors to compete for available jobs.

The proposed change should not affect the quality and safety of an electrical installation since the extent of supervision would be essentially the same as provided for in the present law. A qualified teacher who devotes all of his time to supervising his students would provide supervision roughly equivalent to a master or journeyman electrician who supervises one helper while spending the majority of his time attending to his own work responsibilities.

The changes proposed in section 1202 would allow students in electrical courses to be licensed as helper electricians while in school. The definition of helper electrician in section 1101 is a person who assists in making electrical installations under the direct supervision of a master or journeyman electrician. However, the present requirement for licensing a helper is that he is in the employ of a licensed electrician. This wording technically prevents electrical students from obtaining helpers' licenses. The proposed change seems to be consistent with the intent of section 1101 by allowing students who assist in making electrical installations to be licensed as helpers.