



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Representative Roberts, Senator Curry, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business. I stand before you today present **LD 2133: An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce**. My name is Amanda Collamore and I represent House District 68, Pittsfield, Clinton, Burnham, and Troy.

I'll start my testimony with a short reminder about how we got here. Last session, we passed a bill to ensure the important classroom hours spent earning one's degree for electrical work would count toward their Journeyman in Training License and they would be able to take the Journeyman in Training License exam while fresh out of school. They are still required to complete the remaining in field hours, to meet the required 6,000 hours to receive their completed license. As you may remember, CTEs were inadvertently left out and we passed the bill knowing I would bring forward this bill to include them, as well.

Currently, coursework from the CTEs are accepted in place of coursework at the Community College System, essentially cutting the student's schooling time in half. The classroom hours at the Community College System, with the newly passed law, have been solidified into statute as counting toward the hours needed to take a Journeyman's License test. My bill would ensure the continuity of the training received at the CTEs, going to the Community College System or to a be used at an Apprenticeship Program, by acknowledging the work of the CTE education in statute the way the Community College System does.

I have received a couple of pieces of feedback I would ask the committee to consider implementing as Amended language during the work session. First, we need to ensure that the language is clear that the hours earned are for students that have complete two full years of the CTE Electrical Program. That is my intension, as one year of the program would not transfer as half of the Associate's Degree. Additionally, I want to ensure the language is clear that this would not add

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additional hours on top of the hours earned at the Community College. This bill is directed to support those students who may choose to go into an Apprenticeship Program or into directly into the workforce following high school instead of taking the College pathway. I will be meeting with additional stakeholders this week to iron out a proposed amendment to the bill to fix these technical issues to be presented to the committee at the work session.

In conclusion, Maine has a workforce shortage in many fields, but our trades appear to have taken the biggest hit, especially in the most rural parts of our State. We took a great step last session to help address the Electrical Workforce shortage and this is the next step that we need to take to help Mainers have access to a trained workforce.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.