

State of Maine
State Board of Education

Testimony of Edmond Morin, Chair of the Career and Technical Education
Committee of the Maine State Board of Education

L.D. 2133: An Act to Expand the Use of Career and Technical Education
Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic
Advancement and Business.

Presented by Representative Collamore of Pittsfield

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and Honorable Members of the Joint
Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement
and Business.

My name is Edmond Morin. I am Chair of the Career and Technical Education
Committee of the Maine State Board of Education. On behalf of the State
Board, I am testifying in favor of LD 2133. We are very pleased that CTE's are
being included in this newest legislation.

The Board feels that the rigorous two-year Electrical programs offered in
Maine's CTE's very ably prepare students to sit for their Journeyman-in-
Training license. Currently CTE electrical program students in Maine qualify
for a Helper Electrician license.

About half of Maine's CTE centers and regions located from Aroostook to York
counties have these programs leading to careers that the Maine Center for
Workforce Research and Information lists among High Wage and In Demand
Jobs. These programs follow rigorous state and nationally recognized
educational training curricula.

Let me use the Biddeford Regional Center of Technology, which follows the
National Center for Construction Education and Research curriculum, as an
example.

In its program overview the Center indicates that, through classroom activities and hands-on labs, students will study on-the-job safety, electrical theory, residential, commercial, and industrial wiring. The curriculum would also benefit students who are interested in HVAC and alternative power careers.

According to the Maine Electricians' Examining Board website, to qualify for a Journeyman-in-Training license an individual may be a graduate of an accredited Maine community college or Department of Corrections electrical program. At the same time the website indicates that a full Journeyman may be a graduate of an accredited applied technology high school 2-year electrical program. This seems to be a discrepancy that would be corrected through LD 2133.

One concern that the State Board of Education has with the bill as written is reference in the title to Career and Technical Education Centers. Technical Education is available to all high school students in Maine, and some middle school students, through both centers and regions which have different administrative structures. While reference to CTE Centers is often used as shorthand for all Career and Technical Education in Maine, the State Board feels it best to remove any ambiguity and include both CTE Centers and Regions in the bill's Title.

The State Board of Education will be available for the work session on this measure. I look forward to answering any questions you may have, and I thank you for your consideration.