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TESTIMONY OF KRISTIN RACINE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 2133

**AN ACT TO EXPAND THE USE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CENTERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRICIAN WORKFORCE**
Sponsored by Representative Amanda Collamore

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**
Public Hearing: January 23, 2024, 1:00 PM

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Committee on Innovation, Development Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Kristin Racine and I am the Deputy Director for the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR), an umbrella agency which supports 38 licensing boards and programs including the Electricians' Examining Board. I am here to speak neither for nor against LD 2133 on behalf of OPOR and provide some background information that may be useful for the committee's consideration of the bill.

The bill establishes a pathway that mirrors the one that was established for licensed apprentice electricians by PL 2023, c. 327 §2 (LD 1713), a Department bill that amended the laws governing the licensing of electricians. An amendment to the original LD 1713 added a pathway to allow an applicant for the journeyman-in-training electrician license to sit for the required examination if they completed at least 6,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed apprentice electrician and a 576-hour approved course of study.

A journeyman-in-training licensee is required to have had 6,000 work hours or the equivalent. For example, an individual who completed an electrical program at an accredited community college consisting of a 576-hour course of study applying to be a journeyman-in-training must have had 2,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper electrician. Traditionally, completion of an electrical program at an accredited community college has translated into a credit of 4,000 work hours. See 32 M.R.S. § 1202-B(4)(B)(4). Therefore, this is how the electrical program at an accredited community college pathway for journeyman-in-training requires the equivalent of 6,000 work hours:

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Completion of electrical program at an accredited community college (4,000) + work hours as a licensed helper (2,000) = 6,000.

The CTE-program pathway for a journeyman-in-training license established by LD 2133 requires completion of a CTE program and completion of at least 2,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations as a licensed helper electrician. An individual applying through this pathway is credited 1,000 work hours upon graduation. Therefore, this is how completion of a CTE program pathway for journeyman-in-training requires the equivalent of 6,000 work hours:

Completion of a CTE program (5,000) + work hours as a licensed helper (1,000) =6,000.

A graduate of a CTE program applying for the journeyman license, which requires 8,000 work hours in the field of electrical installations or the equivalent, is credited upon graduation with 1,000 work hours towards the total 8,000 requirement.

I am happy to answer questions now or at the work session.
