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As a master electrician, I know from experience how difficult it is to supervise one green helper, and can only imagine supervising three. I honestly don't know that any electrician could do it and ensure that all work being performed meets code.

When I was a helper electrician myself I worked under the direct supervision of a journeyman and master electrician -- this was the period of time where I learned how to wire houses, buildings, etc and began to gain a better understanding of the National Electrical Code. A helper is essentially an apprentice, some know a lot and some know very little. By reducing the supervision of helpers this will only lead to an increase in electrical issues that exist in Maine. With electricity being dangerous, I urge that this attempt to loosen an industry that needs tight regulation should be opposed.

The electrical code is complicated, I have taught electricians at SMCC and work as an electrical inspector. I know for a fact that most helpers do not get a good sense of code competence until they are ready to study for their journeyman or master exams. This is why we have journeyman and master electricians they supervise electricians (in this case helpers) that do not possess all the knowledge to make a safe code compliant installation -- this comes with licensure and experience.

We should actually be looking into reducing the number of helpers a journeyman and master is allowed to directly supervise under any circumstance to (1) one.

If the goal is to get more electricians ("electrical workers") into the field the State should create better incentives to enter the field. For example, individuals who go through the electrical certificate program at one of our state colleges should be able to use the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit.