



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1691
An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic
Advancement and Business
May 13, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, my name is Troy Jackson and I represent the good people of northern Aroostook County in Senate District 1. I am here today to present LD 1691, "An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades."

This bill is important for a number of reasons, but the most prominent one is safety. The mechanical trades covered in this bill include refrigeration, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, pipefitting, fire sprinkler units, and sheet metal installation. Each of these professions require specialized skill and knowledge. That is why I respectfully ask you to carry this bill forward in order to give all stakeholders the opportunity to make this bill stronger and more equitable.

As you know, LD 1691 arrived from the Revisor's Office late last week. It is complicated and covers multiple professions. Since that time, stakeholders in the mechanical trades, as well as stakeholders in the Office of Professional and Financial Regulation, including the State Fire Marshall's Office and the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers, have reached out and have agreed to meet, discuss, and rework this bill to best meet the needs of all involved. I want to thank them for doing so, and look forward to working with them to create meaningful and just legislation.

I would like to thank all of you on this committee as well. Your work during these trying times is immeasurable. The purpose behind this bill is to ensure a clear and comprehensive route to licensure that takes into account the unique attributes of each profession and the collective knowledge of those who work in and with these trades. By carrying over this bill, you will give the stakeholders the time and opportunity to fine-tune this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Troy D. Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1