

2021 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1473

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry, Business and Labor Committee Room JW327C, State Capitol

HB 1473
1/25/2021

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| Advertising practices of electricians. |
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(10:58) Chairman Lefor - calls the hearing on HB 1473.

| Representatives | Attendance |
|----------------------|------------|
| Chairman Lefor | P |
| Vice Chairman Keiser | P |
| Rep Hagert | P |
| Rep Jim Kasper | P |
| Rep Scott Louser | P |
| Rep Nehring | P |
| Rep O'Brien | P |
| Rep Ostlie | P |
| Rep Ruby | P |
| Rep Schauer | P |
| Rep Stemen | P |
| Rep Thomas | P |
| Rep Adams | P |
| Rep P Anderson | P |

Discussion Topics:

- Electrical Contractors

Rep Hatlestad - District 1 introduced the bill.

Brandon Johnson - Licensed Master Electrician & Manager of Triangle Electric & Member of the Board of Director for Dakotas Chapter of National Electrical Contractors Association, NECA: Attachment # 2336.

Bill Kalanek - Behalf of the Dakotas Chapter of NECA: Attachment # 2952.

James Schmidt - ND State Electrical Board-Executive Director: Attachment # 2289.

Chairman Lefor - closes the hearing.

Rep Kasper - moved a Do Not Pass.

Rep Thomas - second.

| Representatives | Vote |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Chairman Lefor | Y |
| Vice Chairman Keiser | Y |
| Rep Hagert | Y |
| Rep Jim Kasper | Y |
| Rep Scott Louser | Y |
| Rep Nehring | N |
| Rep O'Brien | Y |
| Rep Ostlie | Y |
| Rep Ruby | Y |
| Rep Schauer | N |
| Rep Stemen | Y |
| Rep Thomas | Y |
| Rep Adams | Y |
| Rep P Anderson | N |

Vote roll call taken Motion carried 11-3-0

Rep Adams - is the carrier

(11:38) End time.

Ellen LeTang, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1473: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Lefor, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1473 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

January 23, 2021

Chairman Lefor, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Thank You for having me today and allowing me to speak in favor of House Bill 1473.

My name is Brandon Johnson, and I am a licensed Master Electrician and manager of Triangle Electric, an electrical contracting firm. I am also member of the board of directors for the Dakotas Chapter of National Electrical Contractors Association, NECA.

As a contractor, all our equipment and vehicles in our fleet have our organization name, contact information, and our required electrical contracting License Number. I am not afraid of the public seeing us out there and in fact would prefer the public to see where we are working and what we do. I am very proud of what we do, the service we provide, and of the employees and electricians in our firm. Having signage on our equipment and vehicles allows the general public to identify our company.

The cost impact to the contractor to implement this standard should be very minimal. The first thing we do when we get any piece of equipment is send them over to the shop that does our lettering, and we have them back the next day so there is little to no downtime or lost productivity. Many contractors now have vinyl machines in which they are making stickers for electrical equipment as required by the National Electrical Code, so they may be able to even make their own signage in house.

This amendment will also greatly help the North Dakota State Electrical Board and its inspectors identify who is doing electrical work by seeing vehicles with signage on them, thus allowing them to stop and make sure that the person doing the work has a permit from the State, which is required, and that any work being done is being done by a licensed electrician. We commonly have inspectors see our vehicles and pull into our jobsite and do a periodic inspection on our installation, check our workers licenses, and verify we have pulled a permit with the State.

As a citizen and consumer, I feel this would be very beneficial for consumer protection. When John Q Public is hiring an electrician, this will give piece of mind that who they are hiring is licensed, insured, and bonded and that the license number and company name on the vehicle match the business card which match the invoice they are spending their hard-earned money on for a service being provided. If they would like they can look that license number up on the N.D.S.E.B. website and verify the contractor's license is active.

In closing, I would appreciate you supporting House Bill 1473 for the reasons I have stated. The number one reason for the electrical code is practical safeguarding of persons and property from the hazards arising from the use of electricity. By allowing the public and electrical inspectors to better identify who is doing these installations, will allow them to make sure the code is being followed.

Thank You again to the committee for allowing my time.

Testimony
House Bill 1473
House Industry, Business & Labor Committee
January 25, 2021
Bill Kalanek
National Electrical Contractors Association, Dakotas Chapter

Good Morning Chairman Lefor and members of the House IBL Committee. My name is Bill Kalanek and I'm here today on behalf of the Dakotas Chapter of NECA.

I am not an electrician so please save those questions for those to follow. You have before you a piece of legislation that was brought forward by contractors themselves asking that this body write into the law some additional requirements for advertising by North Dakota's licensed electrical contractors.

For years North Dakota's licensed electrical contractors have been serving the public with distinction. Over the years some of those contractors, especially those in our border communities have worked across state lines and have obtained licensure in other states. Through their experience they learned that many other states require identification by way of license number on advertising and vehicles. Our contractors' experience has shown that by clearly identifying vehicles and indicating license numbers on business cards it serves to inspire confidence that the consumer is working with a licensed professional.

Identifying vehicles serves an additional purpose as well. By requiring electrical contractors to mark their vehicles it aids electrical inspectors in identifying when the contractor is on site and available to examine the work performed. Additionally, this requirement would aid inspectors in identifying contractors operating illegally in the state, especially along our borders and in the oil patch.

The Dakotas Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association supports HB 1473 and would encourage this committee to give the bill a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY Neutral HB 1473

PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD

Chairman Lefor and members of the IBL Committee:

House Bill 1473 was introduced by the electrical industry in North Dakota with the knowledge of the North Dakota State Electrical Board. I've had discussions with a few from the industry on the proposed HB 1473. Some are in favor, some are opposed.

It would be beneficial for our inspectors to see whose vehicles are on a job site, but if the contractor doesn't put a logo on or advertise on their vehicle, then, as the bill is written, a contracting master would not be required to post his or her license number on the vehicle.

This bill would also help our office when reviewing ads in newspapers or on websites such as Craig's List where unlicensed handymen are advertising to do electrical work.

I understand there was formerly a requirement in North Dakota that electrical advertising include a master's license number but that apparently went away a few years ago and I am not sure why.

We therefore take a neutral position on HB 1473 and we thank the Committee for listening and would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.