



Plumbers & Pipefitters U.A. Local Union 262

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March 18, 2024

To: Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Senator, Jesse Bjorkman Chairman
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

RE: Senate Bill 204 Cert. of Fitness Plumbers / Electricians

Dear Senator Bjorkman and members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

Thank you for the time to review the proposed changes to the Certificate of Fitness for Plumbing and Electrical work in the State of Alaska. We have discussed Senate Bill 204 at length with our membership and are in support of the proposed changes. Setting the trainee license to 6 years not only will benefit the apprentice financially but will also cut down in the number of trainees whose licenses lapse. During the lapsed period trainees are not allowed to count their hours towards the requirement of 8,000 hours to take the State Journeyman test.

The increase from \$200.00 up to \$300.00 every two years, to the Journeyman license, has caused the most debate amongst our membership. The most common question I received was, what will we get for the increased cost?

We have asked for and supported additional inspectors for both plumbing and electrical work. It is our hope that the additional cost increase incurred by the Journeyman will go to keeping the bar high for these crafts by adding additional inspectors or other levels of enforcement. Having quality enforcement of these trades means we have equal standards for all employers to perform the work that requires a Certificate of Fitness. Plumbers and electricians are licensed in the State of Alaska because they perform work on systems that can cause serious harm, property damage, and death when improperly installed or serviced.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Austin

Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer
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STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE

March 11, 2024

Attention: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Chairman, Senator Jesse Bjorkman

RE Senate Bill 204 Cert. of Fitness Plumbers / Electricians

Dear Senator Bjorkman and members of the Labor & Commerce Committee,

Thank you for the time to review the proposed changes to the Certificate of Fitness for Plumbing and Electrical work in the State of Alaska. We have discussed Senate Bill 204 at length with our membership and are in support of the proposed changes. Setting the trainee license for 6 years not only will benefit the apprentice financially but will also cut down in the amount of trainees whose licenses lapse or leave the trade all together for another that doesn't have the burden of an extra fee every two years.

The increase to the Journeyman license has caused the most debate. The most common question I received was, what do we get for the increased costs?

We have asked for and supported additional inspectors for both plumbing and electrical work. It's our hope that the additional costs will go to keeping the bar high for these crafts by adding additional inspectors or other levels of enforcement. Having quality enforcement of these trades means we have set an equal bar for all employers to bid and complete work fairly and safely. Keep in mind that these trades have the requirement to be licensed as the work being performed can and has caused serious harm and death when improperly done.

I thank you again for your time and consideration of my comments. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Best regards,

Aaron Plikat
Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer
United Association Local 367