

March 1, 2017

WATTS UP?

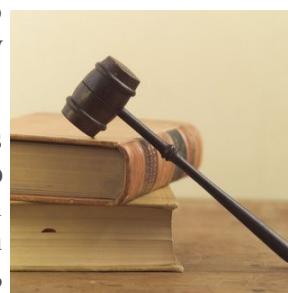


Wisconsin Chapter, N.E.C.A. E-Newsletter

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 64/Senate Bill 30 – A call to Action

On February 8, 2017 the Joint Finance Committee, introduced Assembly Bill 64 by request of Governor, Scott Walker. While the bill proposes many changes, the Governor's budget also prohibits any unit of government in Wisconsin from either requiring or considering the use or lack of use for project labor agreements by contractors as a condition of bidding on a public works project. A unit of government is prohibited from 1) requiring a bidder to enter into an agreement with a labor organization; 2) considering whether or not a bidder has or has not entered into an agreement with a labor organization; or 3) requiring that a bidder enter into an agreement that requires them or their employees to become or remain members of a labor organization or pay dues or fees to a labor organization.

If banning PLAs and full repeal of Prevailing Wage Laws wasn't enough, **this bill also exempts individuals who complete specified apprenticeship programs from an examination required for the following trade profession licenses: journeyman electrician, journeyman plumber, journeyman automatic fire sprinkler system fitter, and automatic fire sprinkler contractor.**



Essentially, if this provision is not removed from the bill, we would revert back to the time when an apprentice would simply advance to Journeyman status and be issued a license upon completion of the required OJT and related classroom instruction with no testing requirement.

This was one of the main issues we lobbied hard for as part of mandatory electrical licensing in Wisconsin. The fact that there was no testing requirement was the largest obstacle in gaining license reciprocity with other states. Below is Wisconsin State **Stature 101.874** which addresses reciprocity. You will notice that Wisconsin may recognize credential from other states but they will not recognize ours. There are other issues being addressed with our surrounding states to allow reciprocity but if this passes, it will be a major setback to the degree that we will likely never gain reciprocity.



[101.874 Reciprocity](#) The department may enter into a reciprocal agreement with another state under which credentials issued to electricians, electrical apprentices, electrical contractors, and electrical inspectors by either state are recognized as comparable credentials by the other state. Under the agreement, the department may recognize credentials from the other state only if the education, experience, and examination requirements in the other state are at least equivalent to the education, experience, and examination requirements for being issued credentials under this subchapter.

We encourage you to contact your area legislators this week or early next week and strongly encourage them to strike this provision from Assembly Bill 64 and Senate Bill 30.

For a State directory of your legislators click on this link <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and then click [find my legislators](#).

Also attached to this email is a PDF copy of AB 64 with other points of interest highlighted courtesy of Dan Shea, Shea Electric & Communications for your

