



January 25, 2024

Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
Representative William W. O'Brien, First Vice Chair
Representative Justine A. Caldwell, Second Vice Chair
House Committee on Corporations
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 82903

Re: CEDIA's opposition to House Bill 7015

Chair Solomon, First Vice Chair O'Brien, Second Vice Chair Caldwell, and members of the committee:

On behalf of CEDIA, the association for Smart Home Professionals, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide written testimony opposing House Bill 7015, legislation related to the businesses and professions of electricians.

CEDIA represents residential integrators who specialize in providing services including entertainment, networking, control, automation, lighting, and audio video systems throughout the home. CEDIA member companies have bona fide qualifications and years of experience in this specialized, ever-changing, and technology-driven field with a telecommunication systems license. Most CEDIA members are small, independent residential integrators with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Residential integrators represent a vital part of the small business community throughout Rhode Island.

As introduced, House Bill 7015 is problematic and has numerous consequences for residential integrators and the home technology systems industry in Rhode Island. The legislation would add unneeded confusion in the marketplace and specifically the work done requiring an Electrical License and work requiring a Telecommunication Systems License. The legislation would allow Rhode Island to take a step back in its business environment to support technology innovation and adoption.

By adding to the Electrical License and Electrical Contractors license definitions broad terms as "support systems", "lighting", and "control of electrical devices" this problematic language would force residential integrators to become electricians to complete any projects throughout Rhode Island. House Bill 7015 would force residential integrators to be licensed electricians to continue doing the work they have been trained to do for years. CEDIA members have the skillset to provide safe, secure, and integrated technology systems for the home supporting the residences of Rhode Island. The new language within House Bill 7015 would make it extremely difficult to adopt many technology

applications throughout the home. As introduced, House Bill 7015 would have a significant impact on the cost of residential projects and unfairly determine who can work on these projects throughout Rhode Island.

Technology in the Home

The number of homeowners embracing the connected home has grown exponentially. The home is now one complex technological system with many interrelated subsystems. The key to making smart-home technology work is effective design and integration. Through just a single device, systems such as voice, high-speed data, video, security, and automation are integrated so they work in conjunction with one another easily.

Residential integrators are a critical part of Rhode Island's workforce and its current and future technology needs. The scope of work and training of residential integrators is separate from the electrical trade and the training and education for residential integrators allows for safe, effective design and installation of technology systems in the home. However, House Bill 7015 does not recognize the difference between electrical systems and telecommunications systems and blurs the line between these distinctly different systems.

For these many concerns listed above, CEDIA asks the committee to oppose House Bill 7015 as introduced.

On behalf of CEDIA, thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns with House Bill 7015 in its current form and its negative impact on the home technology systems industry. CEDIA looks forward to working with members of the committee, staff, and other industry stakeholders to address our numerous concerns within House Bill 7015. Thank you for your time and consideration on this critical issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren Reaman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darren" being more prominent than the last name "Reaman".

Darren Reaman
Director of Government Affairs
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