

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
President

3.30.26

Representative Arthur J. Corvese
Chairman House Labor Committee
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
VIA Email: HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

22 Amflex Drive
Cranston, RI 02921
P: (401) 946-9900
F: (401) 946-9907
www.IBEW99.org

RE: Support H-7963 AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- ELECTRICIANS

Dear Chairman Corvese,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7963**

When the Telecommunications statute came into existence back in 1994, a separate board was created even though there was already a board in place that regulated all work of this type. Licensed workers and apprentices who engage in: general electrical, utility, fire alarm, boiler electrical, lightning protection, electric signs and so on are all covered under the Board of Examiners of Electricians. This is not unlike the State Mechanical Board that regulates all work that fall under the mechanical trades umbrella. The telecommunications division of the electrical industry always belonged at the electrical board with the rest of the divisions of the industry. In addition, the State inspectors who perform inspections of electricians and telecommunications oversee all divisions of the electrician industry and report to the Board of Examiners of Electricians currently. This bill will streamline that process and be beneficial to the industry and the public as a whole.

In conclusion, we **support H-7963** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager
cc:
Jimmy DeCastro / Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul MacDonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist
BuildRI
RI AFL-CIO