

"Let the Code Decide" OHIO CHAPTER

International Association of Electrical Inspectors

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Chairman Ron Young Ohio House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee Columbus, Ohio

Members of the Committee,

After reading ideas and recommendations on ways to improve the content of HB 128 the Ohio Chapter, International Association of Electrical Inspectors fail to even see the necessity of a change in the law. There is already a means in place that the RULES, pertaining to the way in which Ohio's built environment is constructed, can be changed without the need for a change in the LAW. This process can be found in section 112 of OAC 4101:1-1. Changes in the law would require even more rules for the implementation of those changes. It is simply more responsible and efficient to utilize the process of making changes to existing rules rather than legislating a solution to a problem that does not exist across the entire State.

HB 128 has provisions to require inspections within 24 hours of request, arbitration of an inspector's decision of non-compliance within 24 hours, the ability of an owner or general contractor to contract privately with a third party private inspector or building department and the mandate that an owner or contractor can request a certificate of occupancy from the local certified building department or the BBS.

All of the provisions of HB 128 could and should be considered by petitioning the Ohio Board of Building Standards for rule changes as already addressed in section 112 of OAC 4101:1-1. The OBBS, on recommendation from the applicable committee, votes in favor of the rule(s) change or denies. The overwhelming advantage of petitioning the BBS versus a new law is that the committees created by the OBBS are comprised of professionals knowledgeable in all aspects of building construction and enforcement of the rules of the Board. These same committees discuss the proposed change in the rules amongst themselves, with the applicant, with industry persons and any other interested party to assure that the proposed rule would be in the best interest for the safety of Ohio citizens.

In closing, it is the Ohio Chapter, IAEI's opinion that a change in law is not necessary since the existing means for rule change have not been attempted or exercised.

For a safer Ohio,

Board of Directors Ohio Chapter IAEI