



Associated Builders and Contractors of Massachusetts
100 Unicorn Park, Suite 1
Woburn, MA 01801
www.abcma.org | 781.273.0123

February 22nd, 2017

The Honorable Peter V. Kocot, House Chairman
The Honorable Walter Timilty, Senate Chairman
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
State House, Room 22
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Kocot, Chairman Timilty, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors of Massachusetts (ABC) and its 420 member companies employing over 20,000 men and women across the Commonwealth, I wish to register our support for House Bill 68, An Act to Reorganize the Department of Public Safety, which will benefit the state's contractors and construction workers and the Commonwealth as a whole by creating efficiency, eliminating redundancies, and reducing costs by reorganizing and consolidating licensing functions currently spread between several departments.

ABC and our allied organizations have long sought consolidation of the departments and boards that affect development and construction. At present, they are split among secretaries and agencies, causing inefficiency, inconsistency, and confusion. The Department of Public Safety regulates the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, and the Board of Elevator Regulators, among others, while the Division of Professional Licensure oversees the Board of Plumbers and Gasfitters, the Board of Electrical Examiners, and the Board of Sheet Metal Workers.

As an organization representing general contractors and subcontractors of all trades throughout the Commonwealth, we regularly work with these trade boards. Sometimes this involves related matters or areas of overlap, yet when the boards are under different secretariats and agencies it adds to the challenge. Such was the case with licensing of process pipefitting, which involved both the pipefitting and plumbing trades. With the Pipefitter Board being under DPS/EOPSS and the Plumbing Board under DPL/EOHED, we found collaboration and even basic communication difficult, exacerbating the many problems implementing this new licensed trade.

Consolidating and transferring these licensing boards to a newly established Office of Public Safety and Inspections within the Division of Professional Licensure should better align these trade boards under a singular agency more experienced in overseeing licensing to allow for a more uniform and consistent administration of the boards. This is beneficial not only to create efficiency from an administrative perspective, but for businesses and consumers that rely on a consistent and predictable environment. One-stop shopping and increased efficiencies will save contractors and workers valuable time, which is paramount in the current busy construction cycle. Additionally, DPL has made significant strides implementing online licensing and their



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experience could be applied more broadly to the DPS boards lacking online capacity. Consolidation will facilitate the sharing of best practices as the combined agencies work to a unified licensing model.

For foregoing reasons, we submit our support and respectfully request the committee favorably report House Bill 68, An Act to Reorganize the Department of Public Safety. Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McGovern, Esq.
Director of Public Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors of Massachusetts
Rob@abcma.org