



May 17, 2024

Senator Wilkin and Members of the Sunset Review Committee:

The Electrical Safety Inspector Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is currently before the Sunset Review Committee. The Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Building Standards (Board) and was created in 1971 to assist the Board in the administration of the newly mandated electrical safety inspector certification. The Advisory Committee was formed at a time when we were just starting to set standards for the code enforcement profession in Ohio. Over fifty years have passed, and both the construction industry and role of the building inspector has changed. Therefore, we request that the Advisory Committee be sunsetted.

For many years after its creation, the Advisory Committee wrote and administered the required certification examination for individuals to qualify as electrical safety inspectors. Between 1971 and 1984 electrical safety inspectors were the only local building code enforcement position that required State certification. But in 1984, HB 300 was adopted which mandated the Board to issue certifications to other local building department personnel that enforce the commercial building code. In addition to electrical safety inspectors, the Board certifies other inspectors in other disciplines, plans examiners and building officials and aligns the exam requirements with those developed and administered by the International Code Council (ICC) for national certification. As a result, the Board discontinued developing and administering a unique Ohio test for electrical safety inspectors and the Advisory Committee has not performed this role for the past 20 years.

Additionally, last year the Board initiated a study to proactively identify emerging trends and best practices in code enforcement and qualifications for building department personnel. The study surveyed more than 63,000 ICC members as well as career centers to fully understand position qualifications and compensation details and trends in Ohio and across the nation. The survey found, in general, when compared to other states, Ohio has more rigorous education and work experience requirements for certification. In many cases, individuals may need upwards to a decade of combined education and work experience before they can become certified in Ohio.

As a result of the study findings, the Board has undertaken a full rewrite of its certification requirements which is currently going through stakeholder review and input, and we hope to have the new rules before JCARR this fall. Most importantly the changes will provide an entry point and subsequent career path in code enforcement for individuals with little or no

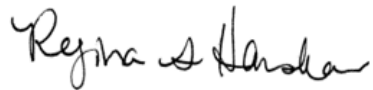
experience while preserving advanced entry points for individuals with significant trade experience but will allow for more cross-training across disciplines removing traditional silos.

While we appreciate the contributions that past and current members of the Advisory Committee have made to help us get to this point, as we move forward with these important changes to the certification requirements and the promotion of cross-training of building department personnel, the Advisory Committee, focused only on electrical work, is no longer needed.

Finally, for background, the Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board and consists of five members: an electrical contractor, a registered electrical engineer, an electrical safety inspector employed by the Department of Commerce, and two electrical safety inspectors employed by certified municipal or county building departments. The members of the Committee receive no salary but receive their actual and necessary expenses, which are paid out of the Board's budget and are minimal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on the Advisory Committee. Please contact me with any questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Regina Hanshaw". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Regina Hanshaw
Executive Secretary