

HB 1597-S.E - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 2/4/2008)

Finds that dishonest construction contractors sometimes hire workers without proper licenses, certificates, and permits to do electrical, plumbing, and conveyance work. This practice gives these contractors an unfair competitive advantage and leaves workers and customers vulnerable. Requiring workers to have their licenses, certificates, and permits in their possession while doing such work will help address the problems of the underground economy in the construction industry, level the playing field for honest contractors, and protect workers and consumers.

Provides that the certificate shall be wallet size, made of a durable material, and include a photograph of the holder.

Directs the department of labor and industries to convene a work group to develop recommendations for enforcement of laws requiring persons performing plumbing, electrical, and conveyance work to have proper licenses, certificates, and permits.

Requires the work group to report its recommendations to the house commerce and labor committee and the senate labor, commerce, research, and development committee by December 1, 2007. Any recommendations requiring amendments or additions to the plumbing, electrical, or conveyance code shall include proposed legislation. Any recommendations requiring appropriations shall include proposed decision packages.