



February 20, 2020

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
The Honorable Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB1127: Support with Amendment

Chairman Davis and Chairwoman Dumais,

Cisco Systems, a global technology company that develops, manufactures and sells networking hardware, telecommunications equipment and technology services, would support House Bill 1127 with our amendment. Cisco has worked with the bill sponsor in the past and an amendment was shared with him in advance of the bill's hearing.

Cisco's stance is that Class 2 and Class 3 remote-control, signaling, and power-limited circuits as defined by the National Fire Protection Association 70: National Electrical Code are safe for installation by unlicensed personnel. These circuit types are well-defined and carry specific requirements ensuring that they are safe from both a shock and fire hazard perspective. Power over Ethernet (PoE) systems are designed to NEC Class 2 limits and listed as Class 2 power sources.

As such, Cisco would support the bill as introduced with the following amendment (V) inserted into existing language in 6-303:

(B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT REQUIRE:

...

(3) A PERSON TO HOLD A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE STATE BOARD IF THE PERSON:

...

(V) DESIGNS, INSTALLS, ERECTS, REPAIRS, MAINTAINS, OR ALTERS ANY ELECTRICAL WIRING, FIXTURE, APPLIANCE, APPARATUS, RACEWAY OR CONDUIT THAT IS CLASSIFIED AS CLASS 2 OR CLASS 3 REMOTE-CONTROL, SIGNALING, AND POWER-LIMITED CIRCUITS, AS DEFINED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

Since Class 2 and Class 3 circuits are safe by design, the training required to install them differs greatly from the training required of a journeyman electrician and is often industry specific.

For example, the Building Industry Consulting Service International (BICSI) has offered information and communications technology (ICT) installation certification classes for decades and have specific certifications that cover professionalizing Power Over Ethernet (PoE) engineers and technicians. These certifications have very little overlap with the training one receives as an apprentice or journeyman electrician but do include all ICT related chapters of NFPA 70.

We feel existing industry certifications adequately allow professionals to demonstrate mastery of their trade and that the traditional electrical apprenticeship model does not work well for the rapidly changing IT and AV industries which make use of Class 2 and Class 3 circuits.

Regards,



Chad Jones
Technical Leader, Cisco Systems
Chair, IEEE P802.3cq Task Force
Chair, IEEE P802.3cv Task Force
Chair, IEEE SPMD Study Group
Principal, NFPA 70 CMP3
cmjones@cisco.com

CC: The Honorable Christopher Adams
The Honorable Steven Arentz
The Honorable Talmadge Branch
The Honorable Benjamin Brooks
The Honorable Ned Carey
The Honorable Lorig Charkoudian
The Honorable Brian Crosby
The Honorable Diana Fennell
The Honorable Mark Fisher
The Honorable Seth Howard
The Honorable Rick Impallaria

The Honorable Carl Jackson
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The Honorable Veronica Turner
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The Honorable Courtney Watson
The Honorable C.T. Wilson