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25 February 2020

The Honorable Kevin B. Hornberger
Chair, Cecil County Delegation
Ways & Means Committee
Low House Office Building, Room 325
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Maryland HB 1127
BICSI's Position: Support with Amendment

Dear Chairman Hornberger,

BICSI is a global professional association supporting the advancement of the information and communications technology (ICT) profession. We are headquartered in Tampa, Florida, USA, and our membership spans nearly 100 countries. BICSI would be in favor of supporting House Bill 1127 with our amendment indicated below. BICSI has worked with the bill sponsor in the past and an amendment was shared with him in advance of the bill's hearing.

BICSI's position 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 (NEC)* are safe for installation by unlicensed, yet trained personnel. These circuit types are well-defined and have been tested for 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, BICSI 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



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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.

BICSI provides training and certification to field personnel in the installation of class 2 and class 3 cabling as follows:

- **BICSI Installer 1® (INST1®)** Non-renewable Certificate
Experience required: None
- **BICSI Installer 2, Copper® (INSTC®)**
Experience Required: One year of verifiable ICT installation experience
- **BICSI Installer 2, Optical Fiber® (INSTF®)**
Experience Required: Two years of verifiable ICT installation experience
- **BICSI Technician (TECH)**
Experience Required: Three years of verifiable ICT installation experience

BICSI also provides training and certification to ICT design personnel as follows:

Registered Communications Distribution Designer® (RCDD®)
Outside Plant™ (OSP™) Designer
Registered Telecommunications Project Manager™ (RTPM™)
Data Center Design Consultant™ (DCDC™)

BICSI publishes and makes available to the general public the following:

Technical Manuals:

- *Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual (TDMM)*
- *Information Technology Systems Installation Methods Manual (ITSIMM)*
- *Telecommunications Project Management Manual (TPMM)*
- *Outside Plant Design Reference Manual (OSPDRM)*

Standards:

- *ANSI/BICSI 001-2017, Information and Communication Technology Systems Design and Implementation Best Practices for Educational Institutions and Facilities*
- *ANSI/BICSI 002-2019, Data Center Design and Implementation Best Practices*
- *ANSI/BICSI 003-2014, Building Information Modeling (BIM) Practices for Information Technology Systems*



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- *ANSI/BICSI 004-2018, Information Communication Technology Systems Design and Implementation Best Practices for Healthcare Institutions and Facilities*
- *ANSI/BICSI 005-2016, Electronic Safety and Security (ESS) System Design and Implementation Best Practices*
- *ANSI/BICSI 006-2020, Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) Implementation Best Practices*
- *ANSI/BICSI 007-2017, Information Communication Technology Design and Implementation Practices for Intelligent Buildings and Premises*
- *ANSI/BICSI 008-2018, Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) Systems Design and Implementation Best Practices*
- *BICSI 009-2019, Data Center Operations and Maintenance Best Practices*
- *ANSI/BICSI N1-2019, Installation Practices for Telecommunications and ICT Cabling and Related Cabling Infrastructure*
- *ANSI/BICSI N2-17, Practices for the Installation of Telecommunications and ICT Cabling Intended to Support Remote Power Applications*
- *ANSI/BICSI N3-20, Planning and Installation Methods for the Bonding and Grounding of Telecommunication and ICT Systems and Infrastructure*
- *BICSI G1-17, ICT Outside Plant Construction and Installation: General Practices*

BICSI training, certifications, technical manuals, and standards 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 such as what BICSI provides 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,

John H. Daniels, CNM, FACHE, FHIMSS
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

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



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The Honorable Mark Fisher
The Honorable Seth Howard
The Honorable Rick Impallaria
The Honorable Carl Jackson
The Honorable Johnny Mautz
The Honorable Warren Miller
The Honorable Lily Qi
The Honorable Pam Queen
The Honorable Mike Rogers
The Honorable Veronica Turner
The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama
The Honorable Jay Walker
The Honorable Courtney Watson
The Honorable C.T. Wilson