

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Cisco's Position: Support with Amendment

Chairman Pinsky and Chairwoman Kagan,

Cisco Systems, a global technology company that develops, manufactures and sells networking hardware, telecommunications equipment and technology services, would support Senate Bill 994 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad M. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

CC: The Honorable Jack Bailey
The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza
The Honorable Arthur Ellis
The Honorable Jason Gallion
The Honorable Katie Fry Hester
The Honorable Clarence K. Lam
The Honorable Obie Patterson
The Honorable Bryan Simonaire
The Honorable Mary Washington