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Telecom Licensing Bill Advances; Chapter in Strong Support

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Legislation to establish licensing for telecommunication technicians has received a favorable report from the Massachusetts Senate Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy. Referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the legislation still, however, faces an uncertain future. Supported by NECA, Local 103, and telephone workers Local 2222, the bill, S. 2728 (formerly S.204) will amend Chapter 141 and create professional standards for contractors and technicians who install and maintain telecommunications, video, sound, and data equipment.

The increasing integration of communication with life safety and power systems has made it crucial that standards of performance and accountability are met. The licensing of telecommunications professionals is the only means by which this can be assured.

A longstanding advocate of the highest possible standards for the electrical, security, and communications industry, NECA Boston Chapter has been proactive in educating the legislature as to the benefits of the bill, with the hope that action will be taken before the close of the legislative session on July 31, 2008. Please contact your legislator to ensure that professional standards for training, workmanship, and safety are mandated within the telecommunications trade in Massachusetts. The time to pass the telecom licensing bill is now. It will protect the public interest by ensuring that all telecom contractors and installers meet specific standards for quality and safety.

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