

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
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**BRIAN A. WEBER**

119TH DISTRICT

Thank you Chairman Huebert and Committee members,

My name is Brian Weber. I represent the 119th district in the Kansas House of Representatives. I am also a co-owner of a mechanical contracting business where I work in management and accounting. Our business, Weber Refrigeration and Heating, Inc. employs over 30 tradesmen, most holding several journeyman or master certificates or licenses in mechanical, electrical or plumbing. I stand before this committee as a tradesman and I am here as the sponsor for HB2035. This bill was developed by a statewide coalition of stakeholders and tradesmen. In short, technical schools are graduating students from programs based on their completion of 930 program hours, or more. This includes classroom time, practical on the job time, etc.

Before an individual can be cleared to work in many municipalities, the city inspector must ensure they have a journeyman certificate, proof that they have passed the journeyman exam. Before taking the exam they must work for 2 years essentially as an apprentice. If they completed a program through a tech school or college they may count their completion/graduation from a licensed program as 1 year and then work 1 year as an apprentice. There is now an additional option but it is unrelated to this situation we are addressing.

The dilemma is that by statute the inspector is looking for completion of a program with 240 classroom hours. This is not consistent with how the programs are structured currently. HB2035 fixes and updates the requirements to current standards of at least 930 program hours.

This bill is not a paradigm shift in the qualification to be a journeyman. It does not impact the authority of local inspectors, and there is no reason we should delay implementing this correction.

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Rep. Brian Weber  
House Majority Whip  
Kansas House of Representatives

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