

- SUBJECT:** Continuing education for renewal of electrical sign apprentice licenses.
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures —favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Hamilton, Quintanilla, Driver, Geren, Gutierrez, Harless, Kuempel, Menendez, Thompson
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Lonnie Stabler, Texas Sign Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joey Bennett, Texas Business Advertising Alliance)
Against — None
On — Bill Kuntz, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code, sec. 1305.168 requires that a person holding a license as a master electrician, journeyman electrician, master sign electrician, journeyman sign electrician, maintenance electrician, or residential wireman complete four hours of continuing education annually.

To renew an electrical apprentice license, a license holder who is not enrolled in an apprenticeship training program must complete four hours of continuing education annually. Courses satisfying the requirements must address safety, the National Electrical Code, and state laws and rules that regulate the conduct of license holders. Currently a person holding an electrical sign apprentice license in Texas does not have to complete any continuing education requirements.
- DIGEST:** HB 1625 would amend Occupations Code, sec. 1305.168 to require a person renewing an electrical sign apprentice license who was not enrolled in an apprentice training program to complete four hours of continuing education annually.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2011, and would apply to the renewal of an electrical sign apprentice license that expired on or after September 1, 2012.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1625 would ensure that electrical sign apprentices were aware of updated electrical codes, laws, and rules. It is important that apprentices know of any new regulations for their own safety, the safety of the business for which they work, and the safety of the public.

This bill would provide electrical sign apprentices the knowledge to stay current in their field. Similar positions in the electrical industry already require annual continuing education. Continuing education also would aid electrical sign apprentices who were interested in advancing their careers in the electrical industry.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1372 by Carona, was considered in a public hearing by the Senate Business and Commerce Committee on March 30 and left pending.