

Honored Representative,

In reference to House Bill No. 342 (HLS 23RS-244) filed by Rep. Geymenn for the La. State Contractors:

The intent of this bill is to change the current La. Home Inspection licensing law (LA Rev Stat § 37:1477 (2021)) to lessen the amount of training required for La. "licensed home contractors" to obtain their La. home inspection license.

This bill seems counterintuitive, as lessening the amount of training needed to become a home inspector would only serve to weaken the current licensing law (LA Title 37; Chapter 17-A § 37:1472), which "require(s) qualifying criteria in a professional field in which unqualified individuals may injure or mislead the public... (to) contribute to the safety, health, and welfare of the people of this state."

To become a "licensed home contractor" in the state of Louisiana requires no formal training; simply filling out an online application, obtaining insurance, and paying the \$75 fee qualifies anyone to become a home improvement contractor. To allow someone without any formal training to bypass any portion of the home inspection training requirements already established in law seems to go against the intent of our current licensing law. Incidentally, LA licensed engineers and architects, who go through a much more rigorous training program than home contractors, have no exceptions and must complete all the home inspection training steps outlined in the law.

Ironically, the vast majority of the problems discovered by home inspectors are the result of contractors not performing their jobs in accordance with current standards. It seems counterintuitive that, as a state, we'd allow these same contractors the ability to "police their own work" without the same level of training required of our current professional home inspectors.

I respectfully ask, for the sake of "the safety, health, and welfare of the people of this state," that you vote against approval of House Bill No. 342 (HLS 23RS-244).

Sincerely,

A concerned voter