

SENATE BUSINESS &amp; INDUSTRY

BILL NO 2

DATE 2/10/05

BILL NO SB 265



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COMPANY: SENATE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

FROM: JEFF HOFFER

DATE: 2-09-05

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SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 265

Dear Committee members,

I am writing to ask for your support of SB265.

As a contractor that works within the electrical industry I've seen a lot of electrical safety issues that are caused by poor installations. This bill will help enforce existing laws, provide better installation practices, and help inspectors determine who is doing the work.

Recently I estimated electrical work for a fire damaged funeral home business located here in Helena. The fire was caused by a switch that overheated due to a poor connection, causing the wiring to overheat and catch the wood framing on fire. This fire caused thousands of dollars worth of damage. The wiring system was romex. (Romex = Non-metallic sheathed cable)

I also recently did a service call at a local health club with a similar problem of a poor connection. Only at a the light fixture instead of the switch. The wires were melted as far back as I could see but, the repairs were easily done. The wiring system was conduit.

What I am getting at is romex is okay for residential installations because of cost savings but, should not be used for commercial applications because of the safety and repair issues.

Please also keep in mind that the electrical engineers I've worked with for the last 25 years have never allowed the use of romex on non-residential construction.

Thank-you

Jeff Hoffer - estimator/project manager