



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

STATE SENATOR

**Senate Committee on Utilities and Housing
Testimony on Senate Bill 153
May 29, 2019**

Vice-Chair Feyen and Members:

Senate Bill 153 clarifies legislative intent and removes a duplicious requirement for building permit applications. 2015 Act 211 directed the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to create a standard building permit application form for one and two family dwellings, and create an online portal for these forms. The intention of the legislation was to simplify and streamline a sometimes tedious process.

Since the passage of Act 211, some municipalities have required contractors to submit their permit applications both on paper and electronically. Senate Bill 153 prohibits municipalities from requiring both electronic and paper copies of the same application.

Under the bill, municipalities maintain the right to mandate paper applications. If a municipality requires a contractor to submit their permit application on paper, the municipality must accept any of the following:

- A printed copy of the municipality's own permit application form
- A printed copy of DSPS's standard electronic permit application form
- The standard paper application form that DSPS makes available to the public

This legislation will streamline the building permit process for one and two family dwellings throughout the state without putting undue burdens on local municipalities.

I am happy to take any questions you may have.