



JOHN SPIROS

State Representative • 86th Assembly District

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 994
Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate
Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

Hello, and thank you Chairman Summerfield and members of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate for allowing me to share my testimony with you regarding Assembly Bill 994, regarding the certification requirements for building contractors.

This bill comes at the request of the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA) to update provisions of 2005 Wisconsin Act 200. The changes will provide more clarity to current law and administrative rules and improve on the current standards for single family building contractors in Wisconsin.

Building contractors must hold certificates of financial responsibility issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Initially an individual must complete 12 hours of training. AB 994 requires that this training include a section on accounting, lien law, ethics, and best business practices. Individuals must then complete 12 hours of continuing education every two years. This bill does not increase the necessary hours, but requires that four of those hours be on construction laws and codes and contracts, liability, and risk management.

Finally, the bill requires those who provide continuing education courses to submit to DSPS a selection of test questions related to the courses and verification that individuals completed the courses.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of this bill, and I welcome any questions you might have.



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DATE: February 22, 2022

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate

FROM: Brad Boycks
Executive Director
Wisconsin Builders Association

Cory Sillars
President
Wisconsin Builders Association

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Builders Association Support for Assembly Bill 994 with AA1, Relating to Certification Requirement for Building Contractors

On behalf of the 3,500 members of the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA), we ask for your support of **Assembly Bill 994 (AB 994)** which makes changes to the contractor certification statutes originally passed as 2005 Wisconsin Act 200.

WBA members from across the state were part of a subcommittee formed to review the state statutes and administrative rules associated with 2005 Wisconsin Act 200, and the results of their efforts were approved by the WBA Board of Directors as part of our 2021-2022 legislative agenda.

AB 994 adds some categories for eligible credits to focus on key areas of need that will improve the knowledgebase of those who hold the credential required to receive a building permit to build or remodel a single-family home.

AB 994 would:

- a) Require accounting, lien law, ethics, and best business be included courses as part of the initial 12 hours of instruction
- b) Require those taking the initial 12 hours of instruction be required to show photo identification at registration
- c) Add a requirement that at least four hours of the continuing education credits cover construction laws and codes, and contracts, liability, and risk management.
- d) Ensure the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) is enforcing current requirements, such as requiring a test for credits provided online, and requiring any vendor offering the online classes to submit acknowledgement of the completed and corrected test for each credit received online.

Assembly Amendment 1 clarifies current law that in person and online classes are available for DSPS credit. We ask for your support of this important piece of legislation to further improve the quality of the education requirements required for single family home builders and remodelers in Wisconsin.

Finally, AB 994 was shared with DSPS prior to introduction. Section 8 of AB 994 contains a six-month delayed effective date per the request of DSPS.

Thank you for your consideration of AB 994.

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