

Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to designate R.S. 37:1381 through 1392 as "Part I. General Provisions" of Chapter 16 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and to change all references within such Part from "this Chapter" to "this Part".

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 827 Original

2026 Regular Session

Jordan

**Abstract:** Creates the Plumbing Workforce Access Act, providing an alternative educational pathway to plumbing licensure in partnership with LCTCS.

Proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Plumbing Workforce Access Act".

Proposed law provides legislative findings and purpose.

Proposed law defines "approved institution", "board", "competency checkpoint", "industry rotation", "Institutional Plumbing Pathway student", "LCTCS", "participating employer", and "returning citizen".

Proposed law provides the Institutional Plumbing Pathway as an alternative route to qualify for the journeyman plumber examination and provides components.

Proposed law provides for rulemaking authority with respect to minimum curriculum standards and provides for laboratory standards and periodic review by the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law provides for required competency checkpoints which shall assess practical skills in accordance with standards promulgated by the board.

Proposed law requires a student to complete a minimum of 2,000 hours of industry rotation covering a range of plumbing applications across at least three participating employers, with no single employer providing more than 1,000 of the required rotation hours.

Proposed law provides that a participating employer shall do all of the following:

- (1) Register with the board and maintain a current registration in good standing.
- (2) Assign a licensed journeyman or master plumber to directly supervise each institutional pathway student at all times during industry rotation.
- (3) Submit quarterly hour verification reports to the board in a form prescribed by the board.
- (4) Certify that the student's work during rotation meets applicable safety and workmanship standards.

Proposed law provides for program participation by correctional facilities, and a person incarcerated in a correctional facility in this state who completes a board-approved pre-apprenticeship plumbing program while incarcerated shall receive all of the following:

- (1) Credit toward the classroom and laboratory instruction component of the Institutional Plumbing Pathway upon release.
- (2) Automatic registration as an Institutional Plumbing Pathway student upon release, subject to any applicable licensing restrictions imposed by the board related to the nature of prior

convictions.

- (3) Eligibility to complete the industry rotation component through participating employers at no additional registration fee for a period of two years following release.

Proposed law provides that Louisiana Works and the Reentry Advisory Council shall collaborate with the board to develop the correctional program in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person who holds a current and valid journeyman or master plumber license in good standing in another state may apply for licensure in this state by equivalency examination.

Proposed law provides for the content of the equivalency examination.

Proposed law provides that Louisiana Works, in coordination with LCTCS and the board, shall develop a financial assistance program funded through appropriations made by the legislature for Institutional Plumbing Pathway students who demonstrate financial need, and that qualifying students shall commit to working as a licensed plumber in this state for no fewer than two years.

Proposed law provides for rulemaking authority and that initial rules shall be promulgated within 180 days.

Proposed law requires an annual report on program operation to the legislature, the governor, and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus.

(Adds R.S. 37:1381-1391)