

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 953

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

PLUMBERS: Provides relative to plumbing licenses

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E),
3 and (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6),
4 1380(A), 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3) and to enact R.S. 37:1376(C), 2150.1(25), and
5 2167, relative to licensing of plumbers; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E), and
8 (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6), 1380(A),
9 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:1376(C),
10 2150.1(25), and 2167 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1361. State Plumbing Board; appointments; qualifications; legislative intent;
12 authority

13 A. The purpose of the legislature in enacting this Chapter is the protection
14 of the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of all those persons who use
15 and rely upon plumbing, and medical gas and vacuum systems for their personal or
16 commercial needs, and the affording to such persons of an effective and practical
17 protection against incompetent, inexperienced, or unlawful acts by persons who
18 perform plumbing and medical gas and vacuum systems work. Further, the
19 legislative intent is that the State Plumbing Board shall be the ~~sole and exclusive~~
20 agency one of the agencies in this state empowered to license natural persons and

1 regulated business entities engaged or seeking to engage in the business of plumbing
2 and medical gas and vacuum systems installation and verification and to ensure
3 compliance with the licensing requirements of this Chapter. Nothing herein shall
4 preclude any ~~current~~ authority of the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

5 * * *

6 §1366. Duties of the board

7 A.(1) The board shall adopt tests of qualification ~~to~~ which may be possessed
8 by any persons actually engaged in the alteration, installation, maintenance, or repair
9 of plumbing in one- and two-family dwellings and see that any person engaged in the
10 duties of a residential plumber limited ~~shall~~ may possess a residential plumber
11 limited license.

12 (2) The board shall adopt tests of qualification ~~to~~ which may be possessed
13 by any persons actually engaged in plumbing installation or plumbing work of any
14 character, and see that any person engaged in the duties of a journeyman plumber
15 ~~shall~~ may possess a journeyman plumber's license.

16 B. The board shall adopt tests of qualification ~~to~~ which may be possessed by
17 any persons actually engaged in the art and business of a master plumber, and ~~shall~~
18 may require any person engaged in the duties of a master plumber to possess a
19 master plumber's license.

20 * * *

21 H. The board shall adopt tests of qualifications ~~to~~ which may be possessed
22 by journeyman or master plumbers, licensed by the board, who seek an endorsement
23 to their journeyman or master plumber license authorizing them to engage in the
24 work or business of water supply protection specialists.

25 * * *

26 K. Not later than January 1, 2017, the board shall establish and maintain a
27 registry of ~~all~~ apprentice plumbers employed in Louisiana and shall issue a
28 certificate to ~~all~~ registrants pursuant to this Chapter.

29 * * *

1 §1367. License required; residential, journeyman, and master plumber; medical gas
2 piping installer; medical gas and vacuum systems verifier; water supply
3 protection specialist endorsement; gas fitter and master gas fitter; local
4 examination preempted

5 A.(1) No natural person shall engage in doing the work of a residential
6 plumber limited unless the person possesses a residential plumber limited license or
7 renewal thereof issued by the board or a similar or equivalent license issued pursuant
8 to R.S. 37:2167. At the direction of a master plumber, a residential plumber limited
9 may independently install, alter, repair, and maintain plumbing in one- and two-
10 family dwellings without the supervision of a journeyman plumber.

11 (2) No natural person shall engage in doing the work of a journeyman
12 plumber unless the person possesses a license or renewal thereof issued by the board
13 or a similar or equivalent license issued pursuant to R.S. 37:2167. A journeyman
14 plumber may engage in the art of plumbing only when the journeyman plumber is
15 under the employment of a master plumber licensed by this board or by the State
16 Board for Contractors in accordance with R.S. 37:2167. Any journeyman plumber
17 that repaired plumbing independently and without the supervision of a master
18 plumber prior to January 1, 2024, may continue to operate in such a manner for a
19 period of five years and shall within that five-year period pass the master plumber
20 examination to obtain a master plumber license. Apprentices pursuant to this
21 Chapter may engage in the art of plumbing only when they are under the direct,
22 constant, on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber. Direct, constant,
23 on-the-job supervision means that a licensed journeyman plumber will supervise
24 apprentices as governed by Louisiana Works.

25 B. No natural person shall engage in the work of a master plumber unless he
26 possesses a master plumber's license or renewal thereof issued by the board or a
27 similar or equivalent license issued pursuant to R.S. 37:2167. A master plumber shall
28 not engage in the work of a journeyman plumber unless he currently possesses or
29 previously possessed a journeyman plumber's license issued by the board or by the

1 A.(1) The board may fix and charge reasonable examination, licensing, and
2 renewal fees for residential, journeyman, and master plumbers, temporary permit
3 fees for journeyman plumbers, and renewal fees for inactive master plumbers for
4 examination, licensing, and renewals pursuant to this Chapter. The board may fix
5 and charge reasonable examination, licensing, and renewal fees for persons engaged
6 in the work or business of medical gas piping installation and for persons engaged
7 in the work or business of a medical gas and vacuum system verifier. The board may
8 fix and charge reasonable examination, licensing, and renewal fees associated with
9 endorsements issued to journeyman or master plumbers relative to the work of a
10 water supply protection specialist for examination, licensing, and renewals pursuant
11 to this Chapter. The board may also fix and charge a reasonable registration fee for
12 apprentice plumbers for registration pursuant to this Chapter. These fees shall not
13 exceed the amount required to maintain the board and pay the expenses of operating
14 the board and enforcing the provisions of this Chapter.

* * *

16 §1373. Injunctions

17 A. The board may enjoin any person licensed pursuant to this Chapter from
18 engaging in doing the work of a residential plumber limited, journeyman plumber,
19 master plumber, medical gas piping installer, medical gas and vacuum systems
20 verifier, gas fitter, master gas fitter, or water supply protection specialist wherever
21 it appears that a person is violating or is conspiring to violate the provisions of this
22 Chapter. The board may also enjoin an employing entity licensed pursuant to this
23 Chapter from violating or conspiring to violate the provisions of this Chapter.

* * *

25 §1374. Penalty

* * *

27 B.(1) Upon receipt of a complaint from a consumer for whom the work was
28 performed, the Louisiana State Plumbing Board ~~shall have the authority to~~ may fine

1 any person, or employing entity, who performs plumbing work or engages in the
2 business of plumbing while not possessing a license or endorsement ~~issued by the~~
3 ~~board or otherwise in violation of this Chapter~~, subject to the provisions of the
4 Administrative Procedure Act, an amount not more than five thousand dollars. The
5 monies collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be used by the board in a manner
6 consistent with R.S. 37:1371.

7 * * *

8 §1376. Exceptions

9 * * *

10 C. The provisions of this Section do not apply to persons licensed pursuant
11 to R.S. 37:2167.

12 §1377. Definitions; exceptions

13 A. Master plumber. A "master plumber" is a natural person who possesses
14 the necessary qualifications and knowledge to plan and lay out plumbing systems;
15 who supervises journeyman plumbers in the installation, alteration, and/or repair of
16 plumbing systems; and who ~~is~~ may be licensed as such by the board.

17 B.(1) Journeyman plumber. A "journeyman plumber" is a natural person
18 who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter, repair, and
19 maintain plumbing systems; ~~is~~ may be licensed as such by the board; is supervised
20 by a master plumber; and is in the employ of an employing entity.

21 (2) Residential plumber limited. A "residential plumber limited" is a natural
22 person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter,
23 repair, and maintain plumbing systems and ~~is~~ may be licensed by the board to install,
24 alter, repair, and maintain plumbing systems in one- and two-family dwellings at the
25 direction of a master plumber without the supervision of a journeyman plumber.

26 C.(1) Apprentice plumber. An "apprentice plumber" is a natural person
27 engaged in learning the plumbing trade by working under the direct, on-the-job
28 supervision of a journeyman plumber and in the employ of an employing entity.

1 supplying water, or removing liquid waste and/or water-borne waste, and fixtures,
2 vessels and process piping that is in direct contact with products for human
3 consumption. The term is also used to designate the installed fixtures, drainage
4 fixtures and water distribution systems of buildings or premises.

5 * * *

6 I.(+) Any plumbing contractor who currently holds a Master Plumber
7 License from the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana shall be exempt from any trade
8 examination requirement.

9 ~~(2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit plumbing contractors~~
10 ~~to perform plumbing work without first complying with the licensure provisions of~~
11 ~~Chapter 16 of this Title, R.S. 37:1361 et seq.~~

12 * * *

13 §2165. Bid procedures; penalty

14 A.

15 * * *

16 (3) On any project that has been classified by the architect or engineer, prior
17 to the bid, as a plumbing project, bids may be accepted only from those who have an
18 active license pursuant to this Chapter or from those who have as a qualifying party
19 a person who has complied with the provisions of Chapter 16 of this Title, R.S.
20 37:1361 et seq.

21 * * *

22 §2167. Plumbers; licensing; testing

23 A. The State Licensing Board for Contractors shall have authority to issue
24 licenses, temporary working permits, or other certifications for residential,
25 apprentice, journeyman, and master plumbers and plumbing firms in this state.
26 Nothing in this Section precludes or preempts the concurrent authority to license
27 plumbers granted to the State Plumbing Board in R.S. 37:1361, et seq.

- 1 B. The State Licensing Board for Contractors shall have the authority to
- 2 promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
- 3 Act to implement this Section, including requirements and fees for licensure and
- 4 procedures for the suspension or revocation of licenses issued pursuant to this
- 5 Section.
- 6 C. A person holding a license granted pursuant to this Section may offer or
- 7 contract for any work or job for which a license of equivalent rank issued pursuant
- 8 to R.S. 37:1361, et seq. is required.
- 9 D. The provisions of this Section apply notwithstanding any law to the
- 10 contrary.

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)]

HB 953 Original

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Grants concurrent authority to license plumbers to the State Board for Contractors in addition to the authority held by the State Plumbing Board.

Present law provides the State Plumbing Board is the sole and exclusive agency with power to license plumbers and plumbing businesses in this state.

Proposed law makes the State Plumbing Board one of the agencies with this power.

Present law provides that the State Plumbing Board adopt tests of qualifications to be possessed by any person engaged in the duties of residential plumbers, journeyman plumbers, master plumbers, and water protection supply specialists.

Proposed law provides that persons engaged in these duties may possess such tests of qualifications.

Present law provides that no natural person shall engage in the work of a residential plumber unless he holds a residential plumber limited license, with similar licensing requirement needed for the work of journeyman plumbers, apprentices, master plumbers, and water supply protection specialists.

Proposed law amends present law to allow a person to engage in this work with a similar or equivalent license issued pursuant to proposed law.

Present law allows a master plumber to be licensed only if he was previously licensed as a journeyman plumber by the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law also allows a person to be licensed as a master plumber pursuant to provisions of proposed law.

Present law provides no entity shall engage in the business of plumbing without the employ of a master plumber.

Proposed law allows such a business to employ a master plumber licensed pursuant to proposed law.

Present law provides the fees the State Plumbing Board may fix for the examination, licensing, and renewal fees for various plumbing licenses.

Proposed law specifies that these fees may be fixed only for licenses and examinations pursuant to present law.

Present law provides the State Plumbing Board with the power to enjoin any person from engaging in plumbing work when it appears that person is violating provisions of present law.

Proposed law clarifies that this power extends only to those licensed pursuant to present law.

Present law provides for the State Plumbing Board to fine any person performing plumbing work without a license issued by the Board.

Proposed law provides that the State Plumbing Board may only fine those performing plumbing work without any license whatsoever.

Present law provides for the licensing of journeymen who have not been previously licensed who come under the jurisdiction of the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law specifies that these provisions do not apply to persons who hold relevant licenses pursuant to proposed law.

Present law provides for definitions of the various grades of plumbers, who each shall hold a license from the State Plumbing Board to do that particular work.

Proposed law changes this requirement from mandatory to permissive.

Present law provides that the State Plumbing Board may revoke licenses from plumbers who knowingly allow persons not licensed by that board to perform work.

Proposed law makes an exception for plumbers licensed by the State Board for Contractors.

Present law provides that plumbing licensees must provide proof of insurance to the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law specifies that this refers only to licenses issued pursuant to present law.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law defines "plumber".

Present law provides that nothing in present law regarding contractors shall be presumed to permit plumbing contractors to engage in plumbing work without licenses issued by the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law repeals this requirement.

Present law provides that on contracting projects classified as plumbing projects, bids may be accepted only from those who have as a qualifying party a person who has complied with plumber licensing provisions pursuant to present law.

Proposed law also allows bids from plumbers licensed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides concurrent authority to the State Board for Contractors to license and permit residential, journeyman, master, and apprentice plumbers.

Proposed law gives the State Board for Contractors authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person holding a license pursuant to proposed law may offer or contract for any job for which a license of equivalent rank issued by the State Plumbing Board is required.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law applies notwithstanding any law to the contrary.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E), and (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6), 1380(A), 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3); Adds R.S. 37:1376(C), 2150.1(25), and 2167)