

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Representative Fontenot to Engrossed House Bill No. 827 by Representative Jordan

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, delete lines 2 through 10 in their entirety and insert the following:

3 "To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2150, 2150.1, 2156(D), (E), (K)(1), and (L) through (N),
 4 2156.1(A)(7), (B)(1), and (I), 2158(A)(introductory paragraph), and 2164(A), (B),
 5 (H), and (I), to enact R.S. 37:2155.1, 2156.1.1, and 2158(A)(24) and Part II of
 6 Chapter 24 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
 7 of R.S. 37:2175.1 through 2175.10, and to repeal Chapter 16 of Title 37 of the
 8 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:1361 through 1380,
 9 relative to licensing of plumbers; to provide the State Licensing Board for
 10 Contractors the power to license and regulate licensure of plumbers and plumbing
 11 contractors; to provide for definitions; to provide for a Plumbing Contractors
 12 Subcommittee of the State Licensing Board for Contractors; to provide for licensing
 13 fees and penalties; to create the Louisiana Plumbing Workforce Access Act; to
 14 establish an institution-based pathway to plumbing licensure; to provide for
 15 curriculum standards; to provide for responsibilities of Louisiana Works and the
 16 Louisiana Community and Technical College System; to authorize competency-
 17 based assessment; to create an industry rotation program; to provide for employer
 18 incentives; to establish a returning citizen pathway; to provide for reciprocity by
 19 examination; to provide for rules and regulations; to abolish the State Plumbing
 20 Board; to provide for the transfer of assets and obligations from the State Plumbing
 21 Board to the State Licensing Board for Contractors; to provide for an effective date;
 22 to provide for the grandfathering of existing plumbing licenses; and to provide for
 23 related matters."

24 AMENDMENT NO. 2

25 On page 1, delete lines 12 through 19 in their entirety and insert the following:

26 "Section 1. R.S. 37:2150, 2150.1, 2156(D), (E), (K)(1), and (L) through (N),
 27 2156.1(A)(7), (B)(1), and (I), 2158(A)(introductory paragraph), and 2164(A), (B), (H), and
 28 (I) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:2155.1, 2156.1.1 and 2158(A)(24) are
 29 hereby enacted to read as follows:

30 §2150. Purpose; legislative intent

31 The purpose of the legislature in enacting this Chapter is the protection of the
 32 health, safety, and general welfare of all those persons dealing with persons engaged
 33 in the contracting ~~and plumbing vocation vocations~~, and the affording of such
 34 persons of an effective and practical protection against the incompetent,
 35 inexperienced, unlawful, and fraudulent acts of contractors or plumbers with whom
 36 they contract. Further, the legislative intent is that the State Licensing Board for
 37 Contractors shall monitor construction and plumbing projects to ensure compliance
 38 with the licensure requirements of this Chapter.

39 §2150.1. Definitions

40 As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

41 (1) "Apprentice plumber license" means the license that may be granted to
 42 a natural person engaged in learning the plumbing trade by working under the direct,

1 on-the-job supervision of a journeyman plumber or master plumber, and in the
 2 employ of an employing entity. Apprentice plumbers shall be placed in an
 3 apprenticeship approved by the board.

4 ~~(2)~~ (2) "Board" means the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

5 ~~(2)~~ (3) "Commercial" means any construction project except residential
 6 structures intended to be primarily occupied as a residence with no more than two
 7 separate dwelling units incorporated into one structure.

8 ~~(3)~~ (4) "Contract" means an agreement to perform a scope of work that is
 9 regulated by this Chapter. The project value includes the entire cost of the labor,
 10 materials, rentals, and all direct and indirect project expenses. The cost of materials,
 11 rentals, and direct and indirect expenses shall be included regardless of who pays the
 12 costs or if they are donated. The "principal contract" is the agreement to perform the
 13 entire scope of work for a construction project.

14 ~~(4)~~ (5)(a) "Contractor" means any person who undertakes to, attempts to, or
 15 submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise, superintend, oversee, direct,
 16 perform, or in any manner assume charge of the construction, alteration, repair,
 17 improvement, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, furnishing labor, or
 18 furnishing labor together with material or equipment, or installing material or
 19 equipment for any of the following:

20 (i) Any building, highway, road, railroad, sewer, grading, excavation,
 21 pipeline, public utility structure, project development, housing, or housing
 22 development, improvement, or any other construction undertaking for which the
 23 project value is fifty thousand dollars or more when the property is to be used for
 24 commercial purposes.

25 (ii) Any new residential structure for which the project value is fifty
 26 thousand dollars or more when the property is used for residential purposes.

27 (iii) Any improvements or repairs to an existing residential structure for
 28 which the project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.

29 (iv) Any mold remediation for which the project value is seven thousand five
 30 hundred dollars or more.

31 (v) Any plumbing work.

32 (b) The term "contractor" includes persons who receive an additional fee for
 33 the employment or direction of labor, or any other work beyond the normal
 34 architectural or engineering services.

35 (c) A contractor holding a license in the major classification of hazardous
 36 materials, or any subclassifications thereunder, is defined in terms of work
 37 performed for which the project value is one dollar or more.

38 (d) "Contractor" does not mean any person, supplier, manufacturer, or
 39 employee of such person who assembles, repairs, maintains, moves, puts up, tears
 40 down, or disassembles any patented or proprietary equipment supplied by such
 41 person to a contractor to be used solely by the contractor for a construction
 42 undertaking. "Proprietary" means specific and specialized equipment installation,
 43 manufacturing processes, used, or components that are protected from disclosure to
 44 third parties by the owner or manufacturer of the equipment.

45 ~~(5)~~ (6) "Controlled access" means the complete building or facility area
 46 under direct physical control within which an unauthorized person is denied access.

47 ~~(6)~~ (7) "Electrical contractor" means any person who undertakes to, attempts
 48 to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise, superintend, oversee,
 49 direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of the construction, alteration,
 50 repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, or furnishing
 51 labor together with material and equipment, or installing the same for the wiring,
 52 fixtures, or appliances for the supply of electricity to any residential, commercial, or
 53 other project, for which the project value is ten thousand dollars or more. This
 54 Paragraph is not deemed or construed to limit the authority of a contractor, general
 55 contractor, or residential contractor, as those terms are defined in this Section, nor
 56 to require such individuals to become an electrical contractor.

57 ~~(7)~~ (8) "Employee" means a worker whose employer deducts taxes from his
 58 wages and reports his annual earnings to the Internal Revenue Service using a W-2
 59 form.

1 ~~(8)~~ (9) "Executive director" means the person appointed by the board to
 2 serve as the chief operating officer in connection with the day-to-day operation of
 3 the board's business. The executive director is the appointing authority for all
 4 employees of the board.

5 ~~(9)~~ (10)(a) "General contractor" means a person who contracts directly with
 6 the owner. The term "general contractor" includes the term "primary contractor" and
 7 wherever used in this Chapter or in regulations promulgated thereunder "primary
 8 contractor" means "general contractor".

9 (b) "General contractor" does not mean any person, supplier, manufacturer,
 10 or employee of such person who assembles, repairs, maintains, moves, puts up, tears
 11 down, or disassembles any patented or proprietary equipment supplied by such
 12 person to a contractor to be used solely by the contractor for a construction
 13 undertaking.

14 ~~(10)~~ (11) "Home improvement" means the reconstruction, alteration,
 15 renovation, repair, modernization, conversion, improvement, removal, or demolition,
 16 or the construction of an addition to any preexisting residential structure which
 17 building is used or designed to be used as a residence or dwelling unit, or to
 18 structures which are adjacent to such residence or building for which the project
 19 value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more. "Home improvement" does not
 20 include services rendered gratuitously.

21 ~~(11)~~ (12) "Home improvement contractor" means any person who undertakes
 22 or attempts to undertake or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise,
 23 superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of a home
 24 improvement project for which the project value is at least seven thousand five
 25 hundred dollars but less than fifty thousand dollars. A home improvement contractor
 26 shall not perform any structural work that is integral to the structural integrity of any
 27 new or existing structure, including but not limited to footings, foundations, outside
 28 walls, skeleton, bearing columns and interior load bearing walls, floor slabs, or
 29 roofing systems to any type.

30 (13) "Journeyman plumber license" means the license that may be granted
 31 to a natural person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to
 32 install, alter, repair, and maintain plumbing systems; is supervised by a master
 33 plumber; and is in the employ of an employing entity.

34 ~~(12)~~ (14) "License" means any form of license or registration the board is
 35 authorized to issue in accordance with this Chapter.

36 (15) "Master plumber license" means the license that may be granted to a
 37 natural person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to plan and
 38 lay out plumbing systems; and who supervises journeyman plumbers in the
 39 installation, alteration, or repair of plumbing systems.

40 (16) "Master plumbing contractor" means any person who undertakes to,
 41 attempts to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise, superintend,
 42 oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of the construction,
 43 alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down,
 44 furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material or equipment, or
 45 installing material or equipment regarding plumbing in any structure or setting, and
 46 is licensed by the board to do the same.

47 ~~(13)~~ (17) "Mechanical contractor" means any person who undertakes to,
 48 attempts to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise, superintend,
 49 oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of the construction,
 50 alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, or
 51 furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material and equipment, or
 52 installing the same for the construction, installation, maintenance, testing, and repair
 53 of air conditioning, refrigeration, heating systems, and plumbing for all residential,
 54 commercial, and industrial applications as well as ventilation systems, mechanical
 55 work controls, boilers and other pressure vessels, steam and hot water systems and
 56 piping, gas piping and fuel storage, and chilled water and condensing water systems
 57 and piping, including but not limited to any type of industrial process piping and
 58 related valves, fittings, and components, for which the project value is ten thousand
 59 dollars or more. This Paragraph is not deemed or construed to limit the authority of

1 a contractor, general contractor, or residential contractor, as those terms are defined
2 in this Section, nor to require such individuals to become a mechanical contractor.

3 ~~(14)~~ (18) "Mold remediation contractor" means any person who engages in
4 removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition, or other treatment, including preventative
5 activities, of mold or mold-contaminated matter that was not purposely grown at that
6 location for which the project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.
7 Mold remediation applies only to the regulation of mold-related activities that affect
8 indoor air quality and does not apply to routine cleaning when not conducted for the
9 purpose of mold-related activities intended to affect indoor air quality.

10 ~~(15)~~ (19) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association,
11 cooperative, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or
12 any other entity recognized by Louisiana law; and whether or not acting as a
13 principal, trustee, fiduciary, receiver, or as any other kind of legal or personal
14 representative, or as a successor in interest, assignee, agent, factor, servant,
15 employee, director, officer, or any other representative of such person; or any state
16 or local governing authority or political subdivision.

17 (20) "Plumber" means a natural person who performs the work or business
18 of installing in buildings and on premises the pipes, fixtures, and other apparatus for
19 supplying water, or removing liquid waste or water-borne waste, and fixtures, vessels
20 and process piping that is in direct contact with products for human consumption.

21 ~~(16)~~ (21) "Plumbing contractor" means any person who ~~installs, maintains,~~
22 ~~and repairs potable and nonpotable tap water or sewer systems within a building~~
23 ~~structure or residential structure for which the project value is ten thousand dollars~~
24 ~~or more~~ undertakes to, attempts to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct,
25 supervise, superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of
26 the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up,
27 tearing down, furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material or
28 equipment, or installing material or equipment regarding plumbing.

29 ~~(17)~~ (22) "Principal" means an owner, shareholder, or an officer or director
30 of a corporation; a member or manager of a limited liability company; a general
31 partner of a partnership; a sole proprietor; a trustee; or a full-time employee with
32 similar operational control or significant influence with respect to any person as
33 determined by the board.

34 ~~(18)~~ (23) "Qualifying party" means a natural person designated by the
35 contractor to represent the contractor for the purpose of complying with the
36 provisions of this Chapter including but not limited to meeting the requirements for
37 the initial license and any continuation thereof.

38 ~~(19)~~ (24)(a) "Residential contractor" means any person who constructs a
39 fixed building or structure for sale or use by another as a residence or who, for a
40 price, commission, fee, wage, or other compensation, undertakes or offers to
41 undertake the construction or superintending of the construction of any residential
42 structure which is not more than three floors in height, to be used by another as a
43 residence, for which the project value is fifty thousand dollars or more. The term
44 "residential contractor" includes all persons who receive an additional fee for the
45 employment or direction of labor, or any other work beyond the normal architectural
46 or engineering services.

47 (b) "Residential contractor" includes both of the following:

48 (i) Any person bidding or performing home improvement for which the
49 project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.

50 (ii) Any person performing the installation of a modular home with a value
51 equal to or greater than fifty thousand dollars for which the total project value shall
52 not include the cost of the component parts of the modular home in the condition
53 each part leaves the factory pursuant to R.S. 40:1730.71.

54 (c) "Residential contractor" does not include any person engaged in building
55 residential structures that are built to the United States Department of Housing and
56 Urban Development's construction standards for manufactured housing as outlined
57 at 42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq., or mounted on a metal chassis and wheels.

58 (25) "Residential plumbing contractor" means any person who undertakes
59 to, attempts to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise,

1 superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of the
 2 construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up,
 3 tearing down, furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material or
 4 equipment, or installing material or equipment regarding plumbing in any residential
 5 structure that is not more than three floors in height, to be used by another as a
 6 residence, for which the project value is fifty thousand dollars or more, and is
 7 licensed by the board to do the same.

8 ~~(20)~~ (26) "Residential roofing" means the construction, alteration, repair,
 9 improvement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, furnishing labor, or furnishing
 10 labor together with materials or equipment, or the installation of materials or
 11 equipment for any phase of roofing specific to a residential structure for which the
 12 project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.

13 ~~(21)~~ (27) "Residential roofing contractor" means any person who undertakes
 14 to, attempts to, or submits a price or bid, or offers to construct, supervise,
 15 superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of a
 16 residential roofing project for which the project value is seven thousand five hundred
 17 dollars or more.

18 ~~(22)~~ (28) "Residential structure" means a building or structure that is used
 19 primarily for occupancy by a person as a residence. Such structures or buildings
 20 include but are not limited to single family dwellings and duplexes which are not
 21 more than three floors in height and structures that are part of or adjacent to the
 22 building or structures to be used as a residence. A residential structure more than
 23 three floors in height may be built by a person holding a building construction and
 24 residential construction license.

25 ~~(23)~~ (29) "Subcontract" means an agreement to perform a portion of the
 26 scope of work contained in the principal contract including the entire cost of labor
 27 and materials of that part of the principal contract which is performed by the
 28 subcontractor.

29 ~~(24)~~ (30)(a) "Subcontractor" means a person who contracts to perform a
 30 scope of work that is a part of the scope of work contained in the principal contract.

31 (b) "Subcontractor" does not include any person, supplier, or manufacturer
 32 who assembles, repairs, maintains, moves, puts up, tears down, or disassembles any
 33 patented or proprietary equipment supplied by such person to a contractor to be used
 34 solely by the contractor for a construction undertaking.

35 * * *

36 §2155.1. Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee; membership; terms; powers; duties

37 A.(1) There is hereby established within the board the Plumbing Contractors
 38 Subcommittee, hereinafter referred to as "plumbing subcommittee", consisting of
 39 the following eleven members appointed by the governor, each of whom shall be a
 40 resident of this state, and each of whom shall have been actively engaged in
 41 plumbing or contracting for at least five years prior to his appointment by the
 42 governor.

43 (a) Three members, each of whom shall be appointed from the membership
 44 of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association of Louisiana.

45 (b) Three members, each of whom shall be appointed from the membership
 46 of The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and
 47 Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

48 (c) One member who shall be appointed from the membership of the
 49 Louisiana Associated General Contractors.

50 (d) One member who shall be appointed from the membership of the
 51 Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana.

52 (e) One member who shall be appointed from the membership of the
 53 Louisiana Home Builders Association.

54 (f) Two members, each of whom shall not be associated with the plumbing
 55 industry, to serve as members-at-large.

56 (2) Each State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education district shall
 57 be represented among the membership provided in this Subsection.

58 B.(1) The terms of office for the initial members appointed to the plumbing
 59 subcommittee is three members for a three-year term, four members for a two-year

1 term, and four members for a one-year term, to be determined by the governor.
 2 Thereafter, all members are to be appointed for six-year terms.

3 (2) All terms commence thirty days after appointment, and all members shall
 4 serve until their successors have been appointed and qualified. Vacancies occurring
 5 in the membership of the plumbing subcommittee for any reason shall be filled by
 6 appointment by the governor for the unexpired term. No member appointed may
 7 serve more than two consecutive six-year terms.

8 (3) A member may be removed by the governor for cause; or at the request
 9 of the chairperson for failure to attend more than half of the regularly scheduled
 10 meetings within a twelve-month period or for cause.

11 C. The executive director of the board shall serve as executive director of the
 12 plumbing subcommittee and does not have voting privileges.

13 D.(1) A member of the board shall serve as an ex officio member of the
 14 plumbing subcommittee and shall serve as the liaison between the plumbing
 15 subcommittee and the board. He shall be appointed by the chairperson of the board
 16 and shall serve as the chairperson of the plumbing subcommittee. His presence at a
 17 meeting of the plumbing subcommittee may be counted toward establishing a
 18 quorum of the plumbing subcommittee, and he shall have voting privileges only if
 19 either of the following circumstances exists:

20 (a) His presence is necessary to establish a quorum of the plumbing
 21 subcommittee and there is a tie vote between the appointed members of the plumbing
 22 subcommittee.

23 (b) His presence is necessary to establish a quorum of the plumbing
 24 subcommittee, only one appointed member of the plumbing subcommittee is present,
 25 and an additional ex officio member has been appointed pursuant to Paragraph (2)
 26 of this Subsection.

27 (2) An additional ex officio member of the board shall serve on the plumbing
 28 subcommittee only if his presence, along with the ex officio member serving
 29 pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, is required to establish a quorum of the
 30 plumbing subcommittee. This additional ex officio member shall be appointed by the
 31 chairperson of the board and shall serve as the vice chairperson of the plumbing
 32 subcommittee. He shall have voting privileges only if there is a tie vote between
 33 appointed members of the plumbing subcommittee and the ex officio member
 34 serving as chairperson of the plumbing subcommittee.

35 (3) The board shall pay per diem and travel expenses for ex officio members.

36 E. A quorum of the plumbing subcommittee consists of a majority of its
 37 members and is sufficient to conduct plumbing subcommittee business. The
 38 plumbing subcommittee shall meet at least once every other month to conduct its
 39 business unless, for good cause, a meeting cannot be held. Notice of plumbing
 40 subcommittee meetings shall be posted on the board's official website and at the
 41 board's office at least ten days prior to the date when the plumbing subcommittee is
 42 to meet.

43 F. Each member of the plumbing subcommittee is entitled to a per diem
 44 allowance of seventy-five dollars for each meeting he attends and to be reimbursed
 45 for all travel expenses necessarily incurred in attending meetings.

46 G. Subject to the approval of the board, the plumbing subcommittee has all
 47 of the following powers and duties:

48 (1) To adopt rules and regulations to govern all plumbing contractors,
 49 apprentice plumbers, journeyman plumbers, and master plumbers in this state,
 50 including all specialty classifications and sub-classifications of plumbing or
 51 plumbing contracting as adopted by the board.

52 (2) To issue, suspend, or revoke licenses to do plumbing or plumbing
 53 business in this state pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

54 (3) To prescribe and adopt regulations and policies for continuing education
 55 for plumbers. However, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the plumbing
 56 subcommittee shall not approve for use by licensees any continuing education
 57 courses or written training programs provided by a member of the plumbing
 58 subcommittee, or by a legal entity in which a member has a controlling interest.

1 classifications listed herein or from the list of subclassifications and specialty
2 classification as adopted by rule. The major classifications are:

3 * * *

4 (7) Master Plumbing.

5 * * *

6 B.(1) An applicant for a contractor's license or registration shall submit a
7 financial statement on a form supplied by the board, current to within twelve months
8 of the date of filing the application, prepared and signed by an accountant,
9 bookkeeper, or certified public accountant and signed by the applicant, attesting the
10 statement is true and correct. In lieu of a signature by a certified public accountant
11 on the board's form, a current financial statement prepared by a certified public
12 accountant may be attached.

13 * * *

14 ~~I.(1) Any plumbing contractor who currently holds a Master Plumber~~
15 ~~License from the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana shall be exempt from any trade~~
16 ~~examination requirement. Any person or business that advertises, solicits,~~
17 ~~undertakes, attempts, offers, or submits a price, bid, quote or estimate to construct,~~
18 ~~supervise, direct, oversee, or perform any construction, modification, repair, or~~
19 ~~maintenance of any portion of a plumbing system is required to hold the appropriate~~
20 ~~plumbing contractor license, classification, subclassification, or specialty~~
21 ~~classification.~~

22 (2) ~~Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit plumbing contractors~~
23 ~~to perform plumbing work without first complying with the licensure provisions of~~
24 ~~Chapter 16 of this Title, R.S. 37:1361 et seq. A master plumbing contractor may~~
25 ~~contract to perform or supervise plumbing work for any structure. Master plumbing~~
26 ~~contractor qualifying party status may be obtained only by a licensed master~~
27 ~~plumber, and upon meeting all other requirements of licensure.~~

28 (3) ~~A residential plumbing contractor may contract to perform or supervise~~
29 ~~plumbing work only for a structure, not more than three floors in height, to be used~~
30 ~~by another as a residence. Residential plumbing contractor qualifying party status~~
31 ~~may be obtained by a licensed journeyman plumber or a licensed master plumber,~~
32 ~~and upon meeting all other requirements of licensure.~~

33 * * *

34 §2156.1.1. Requirements for issuance of a plumber's license; violations; penalties;
35 classifications

36 A. Any natural person who engages in any plumbing work of any kind,
37 including as an employee of a plumbing contractor, is required to possess the
38 appropriate plumber's license. Licenses for plumbers shall be issued in accordance
39 with any of the following:

40 (1) An applicant for licensure as an apprentice plumber shall register with
41 the board in a method prescribed by the board and shall semi-annually verify his
42 employment in the trade of apprentice plumber with the board in a method
43 prescribed by the board.

44 (2) An applicant for licensure as a journeyman plumber may obtain that
45 license from the board after the completion of two thousand hours of verified work
46 as an apprentice plumber, and after passing both a written examination and a
47 practical administration approved, recognized, or administered on behalf of the
48 board.

49 (3) An applicant for licensure as a master plumber may obtain that license
50 from the board after first becoming a licensed journeyman plumber, the completion
51 of one thousand hours of verified work as a licensed journeyman plumber, and after
52 successfully passing a written examination approved, recognized, or administered
53 on behalf of the board.

54 B. A person may not perform plumbing work, or act as a plumber as defined
55 in this Chapter, unless he holds an active license as a plumber in accordance with the
56 provisions of this Chapter. The board or plumbing subcommittee may revoke,
57 suspend, or refuse to renew a license; issue cease and desist orders to stop work;

1 issue fines and penalties; or debar any person licensed pursuant to the provisions of
2 this Chapter for a violation of any of the following requirements:

3 (1) An apprentice plumber shall work only under the supervision of a
4 journeyman plumber or a master plumber.

5 (2) A journeyman plumber may be supervised by another journeyman
6 plumber only if that supervising journeyman plumber is an employee of, or the
7 qualifying party at, a residential plumbing contractor.

8 (3) A journeyman plumber may be supervised by a master plumber who is
9 employed by or the qualifying party of a master plumbing contractor.

10 C. The plumbing subcommittee may promulgate rules and regulations for the
11 issuance of apprentice, journeyman, and master plumber licenses or temporary
12 working permits to persons possessing equivalent licenses or experience in another
13 state and that are applying to perform work in this state, as well as any additional
14 requirements or fees to be imposed for such a license or permit. Any rule or
15 regulation promulgated pursuant to this Subsection shall comply with the Welcome
16 Home Act, R.S. 37:51 et seq., if applicable.

17 D. Additional requirements for the issuance of plumber's licenses may be
18 added by rule as the plumbing subcommittee deems appropriate.

19 * * *

20 §2158. Revocation and suspension of licenses; issuance of cease and desist orders;
21 debarment; violations; penalty; criminal penalty

22 A. No person may engage in the business of contracting, or act as a
23 contractor as defined in this Chapter, unless he holds an active license as a contractor
24 in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The board, plumbing
25 subcommittee, and residential subcommittee may revoke, suspend, or refuse to
26 renew a license; issue cease and desist orders to stop work; issue fines and penalties;
27 or debar any person licensed pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter for any of the
28 following violations:

29 * * *

30 (24) Undertaking, attempting, or submitting a price or bid or offers to
31 construct, supervise, superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume
32 charge of the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition,
33 putting up, tearing down, furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material
34 or equipment, or installing material or equipment regarding plumbing work without
35 holding the plumbing contractor license required for that particular scope of work.

36 * * *

37 §2164. Violations; civil penalty; jurisdiction

38 A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter shall, after notice
39 and a hearing, be liable to the board for a fine of up to ten percent of the total
40 contract or the value of the work bid or being performed for which there is a
41 violation. In addition to the fine, the board may impose administrative costs and
42 attorney fees for each offense. In determining the amount of the administrative
43 penalty, the board, plumbing subcommittee, or residential subcommittee shall
44 consider the circumstances and seriousness of the violation, cooperation on the part
45 of the contractor, and the history of previous violations.

46 B. A monetary penalty assessed by the board, plumbing subcommittee, or
47 the residential subcommittee is payable within ninety days or as provided by law.
48 Failure to pay an outstanding penalty may be cause to deny issuance or renewal of
49 a license or registration and may be subject to collection efforts as provided by law.

50 * * *

51 H. Anyone violating this Chapter who fails to cease work, after proper
52 hearing and notification from the board, shall not be eligible to apply for a
53 contractor's license or a plumber's license for a period not to exceed one year from
54 the date of official notification to cease work.

55 I.(1) All fines or penalties collected by the board pursuant to the provisions
56 of this Section for violations of any provision of this Chapter, except for violations
57 related to plumbing or plumbing contracting, shall, annually, at each audit of the
58 board, be transferred to a separate contractor's educational trust fund to be used for

1 educational purposes as determined by the trustees of the fund. The Construction
2 Education Trust Fund shall make an audited financial report to the board annually.

3 (2) All fines or penalties collected by the board pursuant to the provisions
4 of this Section for violations related to plumbing or plumbing contracting shall,
5 annually, at each audit of the board, be transferred to the Louisiana Community and
6 Technical College System to be used exclusively for training programs related to the
7 plumbing trade.

8 * * *

9 Section 2. Part II of Chapter 24 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
10 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:2175.1 through 2175.10, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 PART II. LOUISIANA PLUMBING WORKFORCE ACCESS ACT

12 §2175.1. Short title

13 This Part shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Plumbing
14 Workforce Access Act".

15 §2175.2. Definitions

16 As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings:

17 (1) "Approved institution" means a community college, vocational-technical
18 school, or correctional facility training program that has received board approval to
19 offer the Institutional Plumbing Pathway program pursuant to this Part.

20 (2) "Board" means the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

21 (3) "Competency checkpoint" means a standardized practical skills
22 assessment administered or certified by the board at defined stages of the
23 institutional pathway.

24 (4) "Industry rotation" means a structured period of supervised hands-on
25 work experience completed by an Institutional Plumbing Pathway student at a
26 participating licensed plumbing contractor's worksite.

27 (5) "Institutional Plumbing Pathway student" means a person enrolled in an
28 approved institution's program established pursuant to this Part.

29 (6) "LCTCS" means the Louisiana Community and Technical College
30 System.

31 (7) "Participating employer" means a licensed plumbing contractor that has
32 registered with the board to accept Institutional Plumbing Pathway students for
33 industry rotation as provided in this Part.

34 (8) "Returning citizen" means a person who has been released from a state
35 or federal correctional facility within the preceding five years.

36 §2175.3. Institutional Plumbing Pathway established

37 A. The board, in coordination with LCTCS, shall establish the Institutional
38 Plumbing Pathway as an alternative route to qualify for the journeyman plumber
39 examination. The Institutional Plumbing Pathway consists of three components:

40 (1) Classroom and laboratory instruction at an approved institution as
41 provided in R.S. 37:2175.5.

42 (2) Competency checkpoints as provided in R.S. 37:2175.6.

43 (3) Industry rotation as provided in R.S. 37:2175.7.

44 B. Completion of the Institutional Plumbing Pathway satisfies the experience
45 and training requirements for application to sit for the journeyman plumber
46 examination in lieu of the employer-sponsored apprenticeship requirements.

47 C. All other requirements for journeyman licensure, including passage of the
48 journeyman plumber examination administered by the board, remain in full force and
49 effect. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to alter examination content, passing
50 standards, or the board's authority over licensure decisions.

51 D. A person who completes the Institutional Plumbing Pathway is eligible
52 to apply for any license classification established in accordance with this Chapter or
53 administered by the board, including any license classifications established by law
54 or rule on or after the effective date of this Part, if the applicant meets all applicable
55 requirements. The board shall determine eligibility, scope of work, and appropriate
56 level of licensure based on demonstrated competency, training, and experience.

57 E. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to waive or reduce any
58 examination, competency, supervision, or public safety requirements established by
59 either board.

1 §2175.4. Curriculum and laboratory standards

2 A. The board shall promulgate rules establishing minimum curriculum
 3 standards for approved institutions. Such standards shall include, at a minimum, all
 4 of the following:

5 (1) The Louisiana Plumbing Code, including all applicable state amendments
 6 to the International Plumbing Code.

7 (2) Pipe systems, materials, and installation techniques for residential,
 8 commercial, and industrial applications.

9 (3) Blueprint reading and plumbing system design.

10 (4) Workplace safety, including Occupational Safety and Health
 11 Administration standards applicable to plumbing work.

12 (5) Applied mathematics for the trades.

13 (6) Water supply, drainage, waste, and venting systems.

14 (7) Medical gas systems and specialty installations, at the board's discretion.

15 B. An approved institution shall maintain laboratory facilities sufficient to
 16 allow students to develop hands-on competency in pipe fitting, fixture installation,
 17 and system assembly under the supervision of a licensed master plumber or licensed
 18 journeyman plumber employed by the institution.

19 C. An institution seeking approval shall submit its proposed curriculum to
 20 the board for review. The board shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny the
 21 application within ninety days of receipt and shall provide written findings
 22 supporting its decision.

23 D. Approved institutions shall be subject to periodic review by the board no
 24 less frequently than every three years. The board may revoke or suspend approval
 25 for material deficiencies in curriculum, facilities, or instructional quality.

26 §2175.5. Competency checkpoints

27 A. The board shall establish a series of not fewer than three competency
 28 checkpoints to be completed by Institutional Plumbing Pathway students at defined
 29 stages of the program. Competency checkpoints shall assess practical skills in
 30 accordance with standards promulgated by the board.

31 B. Competency checkpoints shall be administered by board-certified
 32 assessors and shall be independent of the approved institution. No approved
 33 institution employee shall serve as the sole assessor for that institution's own
 34 students.

35 C. A student who fails a competency checkpoint may remediate and retake
 36 the assessment in accordance with rules promulgated by the board. An approved
 37 institution shall provide remediation support for a student who does not pass.

38 D. Successful completion of all required competency checkpoints shall be
 39 documented by the board and constitutes official verification of the student's
 40 practical competency for purposes of qualification to sit for the journeyman plumber
 41 examination.

42 §2175.6. Industry rotation program

43 A. As a component of the Institutional Plumbing Pathway, a student shall
 44 complete a minimum of two thousand hours of industry rotation across at least three
 45 participating employers, with no single employer providing more than one thousand
 46 of the required rotation hours.

47 B. Industry rotation shall expose the student to a range of plumbing
 48 applications. An approved institution shall endeavor to ensure that each student
 49 completes rotation hours in at least two of the following categories:

50 (1) Residential new construction.

51 (2) Residential service and repair.

52 (3) Commercial construction.

53 (4) Industrial or institutional applications.

54 C. A participating employer shall do all of the following:

55 (1) Register with the board and maintain a current registration in good
 56 standing.

57 (2) Assign a licensed journeyman or master plumber to directly supervise
 58 each institutional pathway student at all times during industry rotation.

1 (3) Submit quarterly hour verification reports to the board in a form
2 prescribed by the board.

3 (4) Certify that the student's work during rotation meets applicable safety
4 and workmanship standards.

5 D. Rotation hours are portable. If a student's rotation with one participating
6 employer is interrupted for any reason, documented hours shall be credited toward
7 the student's total and shall not be forfeited upon transfer to another participating
8 employer.

9 §2175.7. Returning citizen pathway

10 A. The board shall authorize approved institutions to include correctional
11 facilities operating under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Department of Public
12 Safety and Corrections as delivery sites for the pre-apprenticeship and classroom
13 components of the Institutional Plumbing Pathway.

14 B. A person incarcerated in a Louisiana correctional facility who completes
15 a board-approved pre-apprenticeship plumbing program while incarcerated shall
16 receive all of the following:

17 (1) Credit toward the classroom and laboratory instruction component of the
18 Institutional Plumbing Pathway upon release.

19 (2) Automatic registration as an Institutional Plumbing Pathway student
20 upon release, subject to any applicable licensing restrictions imposed by the board
21 related to the nature of prior convictions.

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

25 C. The board shall not deny licensure to a returning citizen solely on the
26 basis of a prior conviction unless the conviction is directly and substantially related
27 to the duties and responsibilities of a licensed plumber, as determined by the board
28 in accordance with R.S. 37:2950.

29 D. Louisiana Works and the Reentry Advisory Council shall collaborate with
30 the board to develop outreach, support services, and employer recruitment specific
31 to the returning citizen pathway established by this Section.

32 §2175.8. Louisiana equivalency examination for out-of-state licensees

33 A. A person who holds a current and valid journeyman or master plumber
34 license in good standing in another state may apply for licensure in this state by
35 equivalency examination, in lieu of completing the Institutional Plumbing Pathway
36 or an employer-sponsored apprenticeship.

37 B. The equivalency examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of all
38 of the following:

39 (1) Amendments to the International Plumbing Code specific to this state.

40 (2) Administrative licensing requirements and board rules applicable to this
41 state.

42 (3) Any specific construction or environmental conditions relevant to
43 plumbing practice in this state.

44 C. An applicant who passes the equivalency examination and satisfies all
45 other board requirements, including applicable background checks and fees, shall be
46 issued a journeyman or master plumber license at the level commensurate with the
47 applicant's out-of-state license.

48 D. The board shall promulgate rules establishing the content, passing score,
49 and administration of the equivalency examination within one hundred eighty days
50 of the effective date of this Part.

51 §2175.9. Financial assistance

52 A. Louisiana Works, in coordination with LCTCS and the board, may
53 develop a financial assistance program for Institutional Plumbing Pathway students
54 who demonstrate financial need. The program may include any of the following:

55 (1) Stipends for students during the industry rotation component.

56 (2) Reimbursement of examination fees for students who pass the
57 journeyman or master plumber examination on the first attempt.

58 (3) Low-interest loans for tools, equipment, and program-related expenses.

1 B. A student who receives financial assistance from a program created
 2 pursuant to this Section and becomes licensed in this state shall commit to working
 3 as a licensed plumber in this state for not fewer than two years following licensure
 4 as a condition of assistance. Louisiana Works may promulgate rules governing
 5 repayment obligations for a student who does not satisfy this commitment.

6 C. Financial assistance in accordance with this Section shall be funded
 7 through appropriations made by the legislature. Louisiana Works shall report
 8 annually to the legislature on the number of students assisted, pass rates, and
 9 licensure outcomes.

10 §2175.10. Rulemaking; implementation

11 A. The board shall promulgate all rules necessary to implement this Part in
 12 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. Initial rules
 13 shall be promulgated within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this
 14 Part.

15 B. The board shall submit an annual report to the legislature and the
 16 governor, not later than February first of each year, beginning in the year following
 17 the first full year of program operation, which shall include all of the following:

18 (1) The number of approved institutions and their locations.

19 (2) Enrollment and completion rates, disaggregated by race, gender,
 20 geographic region, veteran status, and returning citizen status.

21 (3) Journeyman examination pass rates for Institutional Plumbing Pathway
 22 graduates compared to traditional apprentices.

23 (4) The number of participating employers and employer tax credits claimed.

24 (5) Recommendations for program improvements.

25 C. The board may enter into interagency agreements with LCTCS, the
 26 Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Louisiana Works, and the
 27 Louisiana Department of Revenue as necessary to implement this Part.

28 Section 3. Chapter 16 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
 29 comprised of R.S. 37:1361 through 1380, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

30 Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to make technical
 31 changes to statutory laws as necessary to reflect the succession of the State Plumbing Board
 32 by the State Licensing Board for Contractors as provided in this Act.

33 Section 5. Any person licensed in this state as an apprentice plumber, journeyman
 34 plumber, or master plumber by the State Plumbing Board on or before December 31, 2026,
 35 shall hold the equivalent license of the State Licensing Board for Contractors created by this
 36 Act on January 1, 2027.

37 Section 6. (A) On the effective date of this Section, the State Plumbing Board is
 38 abolished and its duties and functions shall be transferred to the State Licensing Board for
 39 Contractors. All unfinished business, references in laws and documents, employees,
 40 property, obligations, and books and records heretofore under the control of the State
 41 Plumbing Board shall be transferred to the State Licensing Board for Contractors as
 42 provided in this Section.

43 (B) Unfinished business. Upon the transfer of duties and functions as provided in
 44 this Section, any pending or unfinished business of the State Plumbing Board shall be taken
 45 over and completed by the State Licensing Board for Contractors. The State Licensing Board
 46 for Contractors is the successor in every way to the State Plumbing Board.

47 (C) References in laws and documents. Wherever the State Plumbing Board is
 48 referred to or designated by the constitution or by any law or contract or other document,
 49 after the effective date of the abolition of that board as provided in this Act any such
 50 reference or designation is considered to apply to the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

51 (D) Legal proceedings and documents continued. Any legal proceeding to which
 52 the State Plumbing Board is a party and which is filed, initiated, or pending before any court
 53 on January 1, 2027, and all documents involved in or affected by such legal proceeding, shall
 54 retain their effectiveness and shall be continued in the name of the State Licensing Board for
 55 Contractors. All further legal proceedings and documents in the continuation, disposition,
 56 and enforcement of such legal proceedings shall be in the name of the State Licensing Board
 57 for Contractors, and the State Licensing Board for Contractors shall be substituted for the
 58 party to which it is the successor without the necessity for amendment of any document to
 59 substitute the name of that board it is succeeding or the name or title of any office, official,

1 employee, or other agent or representative of that board it is succeeding. Any legal
 2 proceeding and all documents involved in or affected by such legal proceeding, which
 3 proceeding has been continued in the name of the State Plumbing Board, shall retain their
 4 effectiveness, and those provisions of this Act requiring that the continuation, disposition,
 5 and enforcement of a legal proceeding and documents related thereto be in the name of the
 6 party to which the State Licensing Board for Contractors is the successor does not affect
 7 their validity.

8 (E)(1) Protection of obligations; federal assistance. All obligations of the State
 9 Plumbing Board hereafter is considered to be the obligations of the State Licensing Board
 10 for Contractors to the same extent as if originally made by the State Licensing Board for
 11 Contractors and the same are hereby ratified. In like manner, and in order to prevent any
 12 violation of the provisions, terms, or conditions of any gift, donation, deed, will, trust, or
 13 other instrument or disposition by which property vested in the State Licensing Board for
 14 Contractors by this Act was previously vested in the State Plumbing Board or diversion from
 15 the purposes for which such property was so vested, it is hereby specifically provided that
 16 each such instrument or disposition hereafter is considered to have vested such property in
 17 the State Licensing Board for Contractors in the same manner and to the same extent as if
 18 originally so done.

19 (2) The State Licensing Board for Contractors is the successor in every way to the
 20 State Plumbing Board, including with respect to obligations and debts of the State Plumbing
 21 Board. All dedications and allocations of revenues and sources of revenues heretofore made
 22 shall continue in the same manner, to the same extent, and for the same purposes as were
 23 provided prior to the enactment of this Section of this Act, unless and until other provision
 24 is made for such dedications and allocations.

25 (3) This Act shall not be construed or applied in any way which will prevent full
 26 compliance by the state, or any department, office, or agency thereof, with the requirements
 27 of any act of the Congress of the United States or any regulation made thereunder by which
 28 federal aid or other federal assistance has been or hereafter is made available to this state,
 29 or any department, office, agency, or subdivision thereof, anything contained in this Act to
 30 the contrary notwithstanding, and such compliance hereafter shall be accomplished by the
 31 State Licensing Board for Contractors.

32 (F) Transfer of property. All books, papers, records, money, actions, and other
 33 property of every kind, movable and immovable, real and personal, heretofore possessed,
 34 controlled, or used by the State Plumbing Board are hereby transferred to the State Licensing
 35 Board for Contractors. All funds controlled by the State Plumbing Board are hereby
 36 transferred to the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

37 (G) Transfer of employees. All employees engaged in the performance of duties of
 38 the State Plumbing Board are hereby transferred to the State Licensing Board for Contractors
 39 and are subject to applicable state civil service laws, rules, and regulations. Employee
 40 positions in the unclassified service will remain in the unclassified service.

41 Section 7. The State Plumbing Board and the State Licensing Board of Contractors
 42 shall take all necessary actions prior to January 1, 2027, including but not limited to
 43 amending, adopting, and repealing administrative rules as are necessary to implement the
 44 provisions of this Act.

45 Section 8. Sections 1 through 6 of this Act shall become effective on January 1,
 46 2027.

47 Section 9. Sections 7, 8, and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon
 48 signature by the governor, or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for
 49 bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section
 50 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved
 51 by the legislature, Sections 7, 8, and this Section of this Act shall become effective on the
 52 day following such approval."

53 AMENDMENT NO. 3

54 Delete pages 2 through 9 in their entirety

- 1 AMENDMENT NO. 4
- 2 On page 10, delete lines 1 through 5 in their entirety