

Section 9 Sections 7, 8, and this Section of 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, Sections 7, 8, and this Section of this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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 827 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Jordan

Abstract: Creates the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee in the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors, abolishes the State Plumbing Bd., and transfers all powers, duties, property, and obligations of the State Plumbing Bd. to the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors. Creates the Plumbing Workforce Access Act, providing an alternative educational pathway to plumbing licensure in partnership with LCTCS.

Present law provides for the legislative purpose relative to the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors.

Proposed law amends present law to provide for legislative intent of that board regarding plumbers.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law amends definitions of "contractor" and "plumbing contractor" and adds definitions of "apprentice plumber license", "journeyman plumber license", "master plumber license", "master plumbing contractor", "plumber", and "residential plumbing contractor".

Present law creates the State Plumbing Bd., provides for its domicile and its membership, provides for the term limits, compensation, and voting of members, and provides for officers of that board.

Proposed law abolishes the State Plumbing Bd. and creates the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee of the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors, provides for the membership, terms, voting, and reimbursement of its members, and provides for the officers of that subcommittee.

Present law provides for the powers and duties of the State Plumbing Bd., and provides that the State Plumbing Bd. is the sole and exclusive agency with the power to license plumbers and plumbing businesses and the power to enjoin any person from engaging in plumbing work when it appears that the person is violating provisions of present law.

Proposed law abolishes the State Plumbing Bd. and transfers its powers to license plumbers and plumbing businesses to the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee of the State Licensing Bd. for

Contractors, including all of the following:

- (1) To adopt rules and regulations to govern all plumbing contractors and plumbers in this state, including all specialty classifications and sub-classifications.
- (2) To issue, suspend, or revoke licenses to do plumbing or plumbing business in this state pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) To prescribe and adopt regulations and policies for continuing education for plumbers.
- (4) To enforce against, prosecute, or enjoin all persons violating plumbing or plumbing contracting provisions of proposed law, and to issue fines and penalties for violations.

Present law provides for licensing requirements of plumbers relative to certain kinds of work and business, provides relative to the grades of apprentice plumber, journeyman plumber, master plumber, residential plumber limited, medical gas and vacuum systems verifier, medical gas piping installer, and water protection supply specialists, with enforcement power by the State Plumbing Bd.

Proposed law repeals the licensing requirements in present law and provides for licensing of individual plumbers in apprentice, journeyman, and master plumber license grades, and for plumbing contractors who may offer or contract to undertake plumbing work. Proposed law provides for specialty classifications or sub-classifications to be promulgated by rule issued by the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee.

Present law provides for temporary working permits for certain plumbers from other states.

Proposed law repeals present law and provides for the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee to create temporary working permits by rulemaking.

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

Proposed law repeals the fees that may be issued by the State Plumbing Bd. and amends present law regarding contractors to provide that the fees charged for contractor licenses will also apply to plumber licenses.

Present law requires the State Plumbing Bd. to perform inspections, assess violations, issue injunctions, or fine any person performing plumbing work without a license issued by that board.

Proposed law abolishes the State Plumbing Bd. and provides the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee of the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors with the power to perform inspections, assess violations, or issue injunctions and fines.

Proposed law provides for the transfer of all powers, duties, functions, references in law or

documents, obligations, property, titles, revenues, and employees from the State Plumbing Bd. to the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors on the effective date of proposed law.

Provides for multiple effective dates for provisions of proposed law.

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 that a person who completes the Institutional Plumbing Pathway is eligible to apply for any license classification established under proposed law or administered by the State Plumbing Board or the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, including any license classifications established on or after the effective date of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the State Plumbing Bd. and the La. State Licensing Bd. for Contractors will determine eligibility, scope of work, and appropriate level of licensure based on demonstrated competency, training, and experience and that nothing in proposed law is to be construed to waive or reduce any examination, competency, supervision, or public safety requirements established by either board.

Proposed law provides for required competency checkpoints which will 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 requires the La. Works and the Reentry Advisory Council to 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 La. Works, in coordination with LCTCS and the board, may 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 of a program created pursuant to proposed law shall commit to working as a licensed plumber in this state for no fewer than two years.

Proposed law provides for rulemaking authority and requires initial rules to be promulgated within 180 days.

Proposed law requires an annual report on program operation to the legislature and the governor.

(Amends R.S. 37:2150, 2150.1, 2156(D), (E), and (K)(1), 2156.1(A)(7), (B)(1), and (I), 2158(A)(intro. para.), and 2164(A), (B), (H), and (I); Adds R.S. 37:2155.1, 2156.1.1 and 2158(A)(24), and 2175.1-2175.10; Repeals R.S. 37:1361-1380)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that a person who completes the Institutional Plumbing Pathway shall be eligible to apply for any license classification established under present law, or administered by the State Plumbing Board or the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.
3. Provide that the State Plumbing Board and the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors shall determine eligibility, scope of work, and appropriate level of licensure based on demonstrated competency, training, and experience, and that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to waive or reduce any examination, competency, supervision, or public safety requirements established by either board.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Amend proposed law regarding development of a financial assistance program for the Institutional Plumbing Pathway from providing that La. Works shall develop that program to providing that La. Works may develop that program.
3. Remove provisions providing legislative intent and purpose regarding the creation of the Institutional Plumbing Pathway program.
4. Amend proposed law regarding annual reporting on program operation from issuing that report to the legislature, governor, and the La. Legislative Black Caucus to issuing that report to the legislature and the governor.
5. Amend proposed law to remove a \$100 annual fee to be assessed on each plumbing contractor for license renewal to be disbursed to the La. Community and Technical College System for plumbing training programs.
6. Delete proposed law that would have enacted a concurrent authority to license plumbers shared by the State Plumbing Board and the State Licensing Board for Contractors.
7. Add proposed law that abolishes the State Plumbing Board and transfers all rights, obligations, property, employees, powers, and duties to the State Licensing Board for Contractors.
8. Amend legislative intent relative to licensing of contractors.
9. Define "apprentice plumber license", "journeyman plumber license", "master plumber license", "master plumbing contractor", "plumber", and "residential plumbing contractor".
10. Amend the definitions of "contractor" and "plumbing contractor".

11. Establish the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee within the State Licensing Board for Contractors and provide for the membership, terms, powers, and duties of the subcommittee.
12. Amend licensing and renewal provisions relative to contractors to include plumbing contractors.
13. Amend major classifications of contractor licenses to include master plumbing.
14. Provide for requirements relative to master plumbing contractor and residential plumbing contractor licenses.
15. Provide for requirements relative to individual apprentice plumber licenses, journeyman plumber licenses, and master plumber licenses.
16. Provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with rulemaking authority relative to requirements for issuance of plumber's licenses.
17. Amend present law relative to revocation and suspension of contractors' licenses to provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with powers of license revocation and suspension.
18. Provide for violations by plumbing contractors that may be punished by license revocation or suspension.
19. Amends present law relative to violations and penalties for contractors to provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with the power to assess violations and penalties.
20. Amend present law regarding violations and penalties for violations by contractors to add that provisions also apply to plumbers.
21. Provide for fines and penalties collected by the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors or the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee for plumbing violations or plumbing contracting violations to be transferred to La. Community and Technical College System for plumbing training programs.
22. Abolish the State Plumbing Bd. and transfer all powers, duties, functions, legal standing, obligations, property, and employees in present law to the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors.
23. Repeal present law relative to licensing requirements and restrictions of plumbers to be enforced by the State Plumbing Bd.
24. Provide that on the effective date of proposed law, all plumbers currently licensed in this state issued by State Plumbing Bd. shall have the equivalent license recognized by the

State Licensing Bd. for Contractors.

25. Direct State Plumbing Bd. and the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors to take all necessary actions prior to the effective date of proposed law to implement the provisions of proposed law.
26. Provide for multiple effective dates of proposed law.