
DIGEST

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HB 953 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Creates Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee in the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors, abolishes the State Plumbing Bd., and transfers all powers, duties, property, and obligations of State Plumbing Bd. to State Licensing Bd. for Contractors.

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 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 State Plumbing Bd. and amends present law regarding contractors to provide that the fees charged for contractor licenses shall also apply to plumber licenses.

Present law provides for 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 repeals the State Plumbing Bd. and provides the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee of the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors with 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 State Plumbing Bd. to State Licensing Bd. for Contractors on effective date of proposed law.

Provides for multiple effective dates for provisions of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 37:2150, 2150.1, 2156(D), (E), (K)(1), and (L) through (N), 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(O), 2156.1.1 and 2158(A)(24); 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. Define "equivalent license" as a license issued pursuant to proposed law that has all of the following characteristics:
 - (a) Requires successful passage of a standardized examination demonstrating competency in plumbing codes, safety, and installation practices.
 - (b) Requires completion of a minimum number of supervised work hours or experience sufficient to demonstrate practical competency, as established by rule of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.
 - (c) Establishes a defined scope of work authorized in accordance with such license.
 - (d) Requires compliance with all applicable building codes and permitting requirements.
 - (e) Requires maintenance of insurance policies for workers' compensation and for general liability in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars for each policy.
 - (f) May include supervision or project limitations as established by rule.
3. Remove the provision that the La. State Bd. for Contractors may issue equivalent or similar licenses for residential, apprentice, journeyman, and master plumbers, and add a provision stating that La. State Bd. for Contractors may establish an alternative pathway for licensure of individuals performing plumbing work based on demonstrated competency through examination and practical experience requirements, to be designated a "certified plumbing technician" or similar title.
4. Provide that for the alternative pathway license that may be created by La. State Bd. for Contractors to be considered an equivalent license, it must require experience sufficient to ensure basic competency and shall be established by rule and that a licensee pursuant to proposed law is required to maintain insurance policies for general liability and workers' compensation in the amounts of \$300,000 each.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. Amend legislative intent relative to licensing of contractors.
5. Define "apprentice plumber license", "journeyman plumber license", "master plumber license", "master plumbing contractor", "plumber", and "residential plumbing contractor".
6. Amend the definitions of "contractor" and "plumbing contractor".
7. Establish the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee within the State Licensing Board for Contractors and provide for the membership, terms, powers, and duties of the subcommittee.
8. Amend licensing and renewal provisions relative to contractors to include plumbing contractors.
9. Amend major classifications of contractor licenses to include master plumbing.
10. Provide for requirements relative to master plumbing contractor and residential plumbing contractor licenses.
11. Provide for requirements relative to individual apprentice plumber licenses, journeyman plumber licenses, and master plumber licenses.
12. Provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with rulemaking authority relative to requirements for issuance of plumber's licenses.
13. Amend present law relative to revocation and suspension of contractors' licenses to provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with powers of license revocation and suspension.
14. Provide for violations by plumbing contractors that may be punished by license revocation or suspension.
15. Amends present law relative to violations and penalties for contractors to provide the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee with power to assess violations and penalties.
16. Amend present law regarding violations and penalties for violations by contractors to add that provisions also apply to plumbers.
17. 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.

18. 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.
19. Repeal present law relative to licensing requirements and restrictions of plumbers to be enforced by the State Plumbing Bd.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Provide for multiple effective dates of proposed law.