

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 953

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

May 29, 2026

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 953 by Representative Fontenot, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs (#3299) be rejected.
2. That the set of amendments by the Legislative Bureau (#3484) be rejected.
3. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "2150.1," delete the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof "2151(A)(2), 2156(D) and (E),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, delete line 4 in its entirety and insert in lieu thereof "and (H), to enact R.S. 37:2151(B)(10), 2155.1, 2156.1.1, and 2158(A)(24) and to"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 8, after "contractors;" and before "to" insert "to provide relative to the membership of the State Licensing Board for Contractors;"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 16, after "2150.1," delete the remainder of the line and insert in lieu thereof "2151(A)(2), 2156(D) and (E),"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 1, line 17, change "(B), (H) and" to "(B), and (H)"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 1, delete line 18 and insert in lieu thereof "are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:2151(B)(10), 2155.1, 2156.1.1, and"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 8, delete lines 24 and 25 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof "residence."

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 9, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

§2151. State licensing board for contractors; membership; qualifications; tenure; vacancies; term limits

A. There is hereby created the State Licensing Board for Contractors within the office of the governor. The members shall serve without compensation.

* * *

(2) Each member shall have been actively engaged as a responsible contractor in the construction classification that he represents for the five-year period prior to his appointment as a board member, except for any member appointed pursuant to Paragraph (B)(7) of this Section if he represents the public at large, or any member appointed pursuant to Paragraph (B)(10) of this Section.

* * *

B. The members shall be selected and appointed as follows:

* * *

(10) There shall be one member who is an active licensed plumber, and shall be appointed from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association.

* * *"

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 10, delete lines 4 and 5 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof "of the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association."

AMENDMENT NO. 10

On page 13, delete lines 12 through 28

AMENDMENT NO. 11

On page 14, delete lines 1 through 20

AMENDMENT NO. 12

On page 15, line 22, delete "or supervise"

AMENDMENT NO. 13

On page 15, line 25, delete "or supervise"

AMENDMENT NO. 14

On page 16, line 15, after "thousand" and before "hours" insert "five hundred"

AMENDMENT NO. 15

On page 17, line 12, delete "or fees"

AMENDMENT NO. 16

On page 18, delete lines 26 through 28 in their entirety

AMENDMENT NO. 17

On page 19, delete lines 1 through 8 in their entirety

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Bryan Fontenot

Senator Mark Abraham

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel

Senator Beth Mizell

Representative Jacob Landry

Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 953

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Fontenot

Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

PLUMBERS: Provides relative to plumbing licenses

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Removed provisions of proposed law creating the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee within the State Licensing Board for Contractors, abolishing the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana, and transferring all powers, duties, property, and obligations of the plumbing board to the contractors board.
2. Increased State Plumbing Board membership from 11 members to 12 members by removing one residential plumber limited board member and adding two licensed contractors selected by the governor, one selected from a list of three names submitted by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana, and one selected from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana Home Builders Association or its successor, and increases the number of members that constitute a quorum from six to seven.
3. Exempted the two licensed contractor board members from the requirement that members be licensed by the State Plumbing Board.
4. Required the board to recognize the qualification or registration of apprentices through enrollment in an approved training program administered by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).
5. Provided that the State Plumbing Board shall assist in developing journeyman training programs, imposes a \$100 contractor renewal fee dedicated to LCTCS plumbing training, and established requirements for the use and annual disbursement of LCTCS training funds.
6. Removed references to residential plumber limited licensure in proposed law and provides that any residential plumber limited licensees holding a valid license on August 1, 2026, shall become journeyman plumber licensees on that date by operation of law.
7. Amended journeyman licensure apprenticeship work hour requirements to 2,000 indentured apprenticeship hours, or 2,500 unindentured apprenticeship hours, or 1,000 unindentured apprenticeship hours plus approved LCTCS training.
8. Amended requirements for master plumber licensure to 1,500 work hours as a journeyman, completion of a 24-hour responsibility course, passage of exams, a criminal background check, and payment of fees.
9. Authorized administrative fines of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5000 for violations of proposed law, after notice and hearing. Further provided that administrative fines imposed shall not require the filing of a consumer complaint and shall be independent of any criminal prosecution.
10. Removed the definition of "residential limited plumber", and amended the definition of "apprentice plumber" and "apprentice gas fitter".
11. Stated legislative intent to expand plumbing recruitment, particularly of minority students, and required a report on minority workforce data, license issuance, demographics, and recruitment efforts by April 12, 2027, to the House and Senate commerce committees.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Remove from definition of "residential plumbing contractor" a provision that would have restricted that definition to persons performing plumbing work on residences for which the project value is \$50,000 or more, and licensed by the board to do the same.
2. Add to the membership of the State Licensing Board for Contractors one member who is an active licensed plumber, and shall be appointed by the governor from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association.
3. Amend provision providing for appointment to the Plumbing Subcommittee three members from providing those members shall be appointed from the membership of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada to providing that those members be appointed from the membership of the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association.
4. Remove exemption for plumbing contractors from \$100 fee assessed on each license renewal issued to a contractor to be dedicated towards certain public universities or community college schools of construction management or construction technology and instead maintain present law.
5. Remove provision that would have assessed on plumbing contractors an additional fee of \$100 on each license renewal per year to be dedicated to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for plumbing training programs and instead maintain present law.
6. Remove provisions allowing a master plumbing contractor or a residential plumbing contractor to contract to supervise certain plumbing work.
7. Increase work hour requirement for journeyman plumber licensure from 2,000 verified hours to 2,500 verified hours.
8. Remove provision allowing the Plumbing Subcommittee to impose additional licensing fees by rule promulgation.
9. Remove provision that would have directed monies collected pursuant to violations related to plumbing or plumbing contracting to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to be used for plumbing training programs and instead maintains present law regarding allocation of monies collected pursuant to contracting violations.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

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 provides for the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors and provides for its membership.

Proposed law adds to the membership of the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors one member to be selected by the governor from a list of three names selected by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association.

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 any 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, 2151(A)(2), 2156(D) and (E), 2156.1(A)(7), (B)(1), and (I), 2158(A)(intro. para.), and 2164(A), (B), and (H); Adds R.S. 37:2151(B)(10), 2155.1, 2156.1.1, and 2158(A)(24); Repeals R.S. 37:1361-1380)