

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 175

BY SENATOR WOMACK

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PLUMBERS. Provides relative to the State Plumbing Board. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:1361(B), 1361(B)(3) and (4) and (D), 1362, 1363, 1366(A)(1), and 1379, relative to the State Plumbing Board; to provide for membership of the board; to provide for terms of office; to provide for the election of officers of the board; to provide for duties of the board; to provide relative to an advisory committee; to provide for terms, conditions, and procedures; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:1361(B), R.S. 37:1361(B)(3) and (4) and (D), 1362, 1363, 1366(A)(1), and 1379 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

* * *

B. The State Plumbing Board is created. The board, which shall be appointed by the governor, shall consist of one registered mechanical engineer who is also licensed by the State Plumbing Board, one plumbing inspector who is also licensed

by the State Plumbing Board, ~~three~~ **five** master plumbers, ~~three journeyman plumbers~~ **one journeyman plumber**, one residential plumber limited, and two members of the public. Each appointment shall be made in the following manner:

* * *

(3)(a) ~~Master~~ **Three active master** plumbers shall be from a list of nine names submitted by the ~~Louisiana Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors~~ **Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors of Louisiana** or its successors.

(b) Two active master plumbers shall be from a list of six names submitted by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association or its successor.

(c) Each active master plumber appointed shall be listed as the responsible master plumber for his company.

(4) ~~Journeyman plumbers~~ **The journeyman plumber** shall be from a list of ~~nine~~ **three** names submitted by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association or its successor.

* * *

D. All members shall be qualified electors of this state and, **except for the public members, shall be** licensed by the board ~~except the first board members who shall be licensed within one year.~~ **The public members shall represent the general public and shall not earn their livelihood in a construction related industry.**

* * *

§1362. Term of office

The members of the board shall serve for six years, ~~provided, however, that initially three appointees shall serve for two years, three appointees shall serve for four years, and two appointees shall serve for six years or~~ **and shall remain serving after their term expires** until their successors are appointed by the governor.

§1363. Officers of the board

A. The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, and a secretary-treasurer for two year terms; the election to be held within thirty days of

1 ~~July 1~~ **August first** in each odd-numbered year.

2 **B.(1) The chairman and vice chairman shall be an active master plumber**
3 **listed as the responsible master plumber for his company.**

4 **(2)** The chairman shall vote only in case of a tie.

5 * * *

6 §1366. Duties of the board

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

12 * * *

13 §1379. Advisory committee

14 There shall be an advisory committee appointed by the Louisiana Pipe Trades
15 Association and the ~~Louisiana Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling~~
16 ~~Contractors, Inc.~~ **Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors of Louisiana**, with
17 each organization appointing five members to the committee. The committee shall
18 have access to all meetings and records of the board and shall have the privilege of
19 discussing board business at any and all meetings, and advise the board upon the
20 board's activities. They shall receive no pay or expenses and shall not be qualified
21 to vote.

22 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
24 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
26 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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Present law creates the State Plumbing Board (board) and provides for nominations and appointments of members, including one registered mechanical engineer, one plumbing inspector, three master plumbers, three journeymen plumbers, one residential plumber limited, and two members of the public.

Proposed law retains present law in part and provides that the board shall be composed of the following:

- (1) One registered mechanical engineer from a list of three names submitted by La. Dept. of Health.
- (2) One plumbing inspector from a list of three names submitted by La. State Uniform Construction Code Council.
- (3) Five active master plumbers.
 - (a) Three active master plumbers from a list of nine names submitted by the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors of Louisiana (formerly LAPHCC) or its successor.
 - (b) Two active master plumbers from a list of six names submitted by the La. Pipe Trades Association or its successor
 - (c) Each active master plumber appointed shall be listed as the responsible master plumber for their company.
- (4) One journeyman plumber from a list of three names submitted by the La. Pipe Trades Association or its successor.

Present law provides that all members shall be qualified electors of this state and licensed by the board except the first board members who shall be licensed within one year.

Proposed law retains present law in part, except provides that all members, except the public members, shall be licensed by the board. Provides that the public members shall not earn their livelihood in a construction related industry.

Present law provides that board members shall serve for six years, provided that the initial three appointees shall serve for two years, three appointees shall serve for four years, and two appointees shall serve for six years or until their successors are appointed by the governor.

Proposed law retains present law in part, except provides that board members shall serve for six years and shall remain serving after the term expires until their successors are appointed by the governor.

Present law provides that the board shall elect from its members a chairman, vice chairman and a secretary-treasurer for two year terms. Further provides that the election shall be held within 30 days of July first in each odd-numbered year and the chairman shall vote only in case of a tie.

Proposed law retains present law in part, except requires the election to be held within 30 days of August first in each odd-numbered year. Further provides that the chairman and vice chairman shall be an active master plumber listed as the responsible master plumber for his company.

Present law provides that any person engaged in the repair of existing plumbing in one- and two- family dwellings shall possess a residential plumber limited license.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that any person engaged in the installation, alteration, or maintenance of existing plumbing in one- and two- family dwellings shall possess a residential plumber limited license.

Proposed law changes the name of the La. Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, Inc. (LAPHCC) to the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors of Louisiana.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(B)(intro para), (B)(3) and (4) and (D), 1362, 1363, 1366(A)(1), and 1379)