

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 280

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

CONTRACTORS. Provides relative to the authority of the State Licensing Board for Contractors to issue certain licenses. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:2150.1(8) through (25) and to enact R.S. 37:2150.1(26) and  
3 (27) and 2156.5, relative to the state Licensing Board for Contractors; to provide  
4 relative to water well drilling; to provide relative to environmental wells or holes; to  
5 provide for licensure and registration requirements; to provide for contractor  
6 classifications; to provide for terms and definitions; and to provide for related  
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 37:2150.1(8) through (25) are hereby amended and reenacted and  
10 R.S. 37:2150.1(26) and (27) and 2156.5 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2150.1. Definitions

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

13 \* \* \*

14 (8) "Environmental well or hole" includes but is not limited to the  
15 observation, monitor, piezometer, recovery, horizontal injection, cathodic  
16 protection, or geotechnical boreholes for the purposes of environmental  
17 assessment, sampling, or analyzation.

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

5            ~~(9)(a)~~(10)(a) "General contractor" means a person who contracts directly  
6            with the owner. The term "general contractor" includes the term "primary contractor"  
7            and 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  
20           not 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.

1           ~~(12)~~**(13)** "License" means any form of license or registration the board is  
2 authorized to issue in accordance with this Chapter.

3           ~~(13)~~**(14)** "Mechanical contractor" means any person who undertakes to,  
4 attempts to, or submits a price or bid or offers to construct, supervise, superintend,  
5 oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of the construction,  
6 alteration, repair, improvement, movement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, or  
7 furnishing labor, or furnishing labor together with material and equipment, or  
8 installing the same for the construction, installation, maintenance, testing, and repair  
9 of air conditioning, refrigeration, heating systems, and plumbing for all residential,  
10 commercial, and industrial applications as well as ventilation systems, mechanical  
11 work controls, boilers and other pressure vessels, steam and hot water systems and  
12 piping, gas piping and fuel storage, and chilled water and condensing water systems  
13 and piping, including but not limited to any type of industrial process piping and  
14 related valves, fittings, and components, for which the project value is ten thousand  
15 dollars or more. This Paragraph is not deemed or construed to limit the authority of  
16 a contractor, general contractor, or residential contractor, as those terms are defined  
17 in this Section, nor to require such individuals to become a mechanical contractor.

18           ~~(14)~~**(15)** "Mold remediation contractor" means any person who engages in  
19 removal, cleaning, sanitizing, demolition, or other treatment, including preventative  
20 activities, of mold or mold-contaminated matter that was not purposely grown at that  
21 location for which the project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.  
22 Mold remediation applies only to the regulation of mold-related activities that affect  
23 indoor air quality and does not apply to routine cleaning when not conducted for the  
24 purpose of mold-related activities intended to affect indoor air quality.

25           ~~(15)~~**(16)** "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association,  
26 cooperative, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or  
27 any other entity recognized by Louisiana law; and whether or not acting as a  
28 principal, trustee, fiduciary, receiver, or as any other kind of legal or personal  
29 representative, or as a successor in interest, assignee, agent, factor, servant,

1 employee, director, officer, or any other representative of such person; or any state  
2 or local governing authority or political subdivision.

3 ~~(16)~~**(17)** "Plumbing contractor" means any person who installs, maintains,  
4 and repairs potable and nonpotable tap water or sewer systems within a building  
5 structure or residential structure for which the project value is ten thousand dollars  
6 or more.

7 ~~(17)~~**(18)** "Principal" means an owner, shareholder, or an officer or director  
8 of a corporation; a member or manager of a limited liability company; a general  
9 partner of a partnership; a sole proprietor; a trustee; or a full-time employee with  
10 similar operational control or significant influence with respect to any person as  
11 determined by the board.

12 ~~(18)~~**(19)** "Qualifying party" means a natural person designated by the  
13 contractor to represent the contractor for the purpose of complying with the  
14 provisions of this Chapter including but not limited to meeting the requirements for  
15 the initial license and any continuation thereof.

16 ~~(19)(a)~~**(20)(a)** "Residential contractor" means any person who constructs a  
17 fixed building or structure for sale or use by another as a residence or who, for a  
18 price, commission, fee, wage, or other compensation, undertakes or offers to  
19 undertake the construction or superintending of the construction of any residential  
20 structure which is not more than three floors in height, to be used by another as a  
21 residence, for which the project value is fifty thousand dollars or more. The term  
22 "residential contractor" includes all persons who receive an additional fee for the  
23 employment or direction of labor, or any other work beyond the normal architectural  
24 or engineering services.

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

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

28 (ii) Any person performing the installation of a modular home with a value  
29 equal to or greater than fifty thousand dollars for which the total project value shall

1 not include the cost of the component parts of the modular home in the condition  
2 each part leaves the factory pursuant to R.S. 40:1730.71.

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

7 ~~(20)~~**(21)** "Residential roofing" means the construction, alteration, repair,  
8 improvement, demolition, putting up, tearing down, furnishing labor, or furnishing  
9 labor together with materials or equipment, or the installation of materials or  
10 equipment for any phase of roofing specific to a residential structure for which the  
11 project value is seven thousand five hundred dollars or more.

12 ~~(21)~~**(22)** "Residential roofing contractor" means any person who undertakes  
13 to, attempts to, or submits a price or bid, or offers to construct, supervise,  
14 superintend, oversee, direct, perform, or in any manner assume charge of a  
15 residential roofing project for which the project value is seven thousand five hundred  
16 dollars or more.

17 ~~(22)~~**(23)** "Residential structure" means a building or structure that is used  
18 primarily for occupancy by a person as a residence. Such structures or buildings  
19 include but are not limited to single family dwellings and duplexes which are not  
20 more than three floors in height and structures that are part of or adjacent to the  
21 building or structures to be used as a residence. A residential structure more than  
22 three floors in height may be built by a person holding a building construction and  
23 residential construction license.

24 ~~(23)~~**(24)** "Subcontract" means an agreement to perform a portion of the scope  
25 of work contained in the principal contract including the entire cost of labor and  
26 materials of that part of the principal contract which is performed by the  
27 subcontractor.

28 ~~(24)(a)~~**(25)(a)** "Subcontractor" means a person who contracts to perform a  
29 scope of work that is a part of the scope of work contained in the principal contract.

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

5 **(26) "Water well drilling" means drilling for the purposes of extracting**  
6 **ground water which includes but is not limited to the drilling, construction,**  
7 **maintenance, repair, abandoning, plugging, or sealing water wells for potable**  
8 **and nonpotable water.**

9 \* \* \*

10 **§2156.5. Water well drilling**

11 **A. Beginning July 1, 2026, any person who advertises, solicits,**  
12 **undertakes, attempts, offers, or submits a price, bid, quote, or estimate to**  
13 **construct, supervise, direct, oversee, or perform any construction, modification,**  
14 **repair, or maintenance of any portion of any water well, or environmental well**  
15 **or hole for which the project value is one dollar or more shall hold the**  
16 **appropriate license and classification.**

17 **B. A water well contractor and environmental well or hole contractor**  
18 **shall pass the appropriate examination, be registered with the State Licensing**  
19 **Board for Contractors, be in good standing with the Department of**  
20 **Conservation and Energy, and meet all other licensure requirements of a**  
21 **contractor pursuant to this Chapter.**

22 **C. A water well contractor and environmental well or hole contractor**  
23 **shall complete five hours of continuing education annually from a provider**  
24 **approved by the board and maintain well registration with the Department of**  
25 **Conservation and Energy pursuant to R.S. 38:3097.3.**

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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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## DIGEST

SB 280 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law provides for the regulation and licensure of contractors.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines "environmental well or hole" to include but not be limited to the observation, monitor, piezometer, recovery, horizontal injection, cathodic protection, or geotechnical boreholes for the purposes of environmental assessment, sampling, or analyzation. Defines "water well drilling" to mean drilling for the purposes of extracting ground water which includes but is not limited to the drilling, construction, maintenance, repair, abandoning, plugging, or sealing water wells for potable and nonpotable water.

Proposed law requires that beginning July 1, 2026, the appropriate license classification be held by any person who advertises, solicits, undertakes, attempts, offers, or submits a price, bid, quote, or estimate to construct, supervise, direct, oversee, or perform any construction, modification, repair, or maintenance of any portion of a water well, environmental well or hole.

Proposed law requires a water well contractor or environmental well or hole contractor to pass the appropriate examination, be registered with the State Licensing Board for Contractors, be registered and in good standing with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy, and meet all other licensure requirements of a contractor.

Proposed law requires a water well contractor or environmental well or hole contractors to complete five hours of continuing education annually from a provider approved by the board and maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:2150.1(8)-(25); adds R.S. 37:2150.1(26) and (27) and 2156.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Provides for licensure requirements for well contractors.
2. Provides for continuing education for well contractors. Requires a well contractor to complete five hours of continuing education annually and to maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
3. Requires well contractors maintain well registration with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
4. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Replaces the term "environmental drilling" with "environmental well or hole" and provides a definition for the term.
2. Replaces the term "water drilling" with "water well drilling" and clarifies the definition of "water well drilling".
3. Clarifies that both a water well contractor and an environmental or hole contractor shall pass exams, register with the state board of contractors, and be in good standing with the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.
4. Clarifies that both a water well contractor and an environmental or hole contractor shall complete five hours of continuing education.
5. Makes technical changes.