

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 953

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

PLUMBERS: Provides relative to plumbing licenses

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E),
3 and (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6),
4 1380(A), 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3) and to enact R.S. 37:1376(C), 2150.1(25), and
5 2167, relative to licensing of plumbers; to allow the Louisiana State Board of
6 Contractors to provide an alternative pathway for plumbing licensure; to provide for
7 definitions; to provide for license equivalency; to provide for insurance
8 requirements; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E), and
11 (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6), 1380(A),
12 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 37:1376(C),
13 2150.1(25), and 2167 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §1361. State Plumbing Board; appointments; qualifications; legislative intent;
15 authority

16 A. The purpose of the legislature in enacting this Chapter is the protection
17 of the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of all those persons who use
18 and rely upon plumbing, and medical gas and vacuum systems for their personal or
19 commercial needs, and the affording to such persons of an effective and practical
20 protection against incompetent, inexperienced, or unlawful acts by persons who

1 perform plumbing and medical gas and vacuum systems work. Further, the
 2 legislative intent is that the State Plumbing Board shall be the ~~sole and exclusive~~
 3 ~~agency~~ one of the agencies in this state empowered to license natural persons and
 4 regulated business entities engaged or seeking to engage in the business of plumbing
 5 and medical gas and vacuum systems installation and verification and to ensure
 6 compliance with the licensing requirements of this Chapter. Nothing herein shall
 7 preclude any ~~current~~ authority of the State Licensing Board for Contractors.

8 * * *

9 §1366. Duties of the board

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

15 (2) The board shall adopt tests of qualification ~~to~~ which may be possessed
 16 by any persons actually engaged in plumbing installation or plumbing work of any
 17 character, and see that any person engaged in the duties of a journeyman plumber
 18 ~~shall~~ may possess a journeyman plumber's license.

19 B. The board shall adopt tests of qualification ~~to~~ which may be possessed by
 20 any persons actually engaged in the art and business of a master plumber, and ~~shall~~
 21 may require any person engaged in the duties of a master plumber to possess a
 22 master plumber's license.

23 * * *

24 H. The board shall adopt tests of qualifications ~~to~~ which may be possessed
 25 by journeyman or master plumbers, licensed by the board, who seek an endorsement
 26 to their journeyman or master plumber license authorizing them to engage in the
 27 work or business of water supply protection specialists.

28 * * *

1 §1374. Penalty

2 * * *

3 B.(1) Upon receipt of a complaint from a consumer for whom the work was
4 performed, the Louisiana State Plumbing Board ~~shall have the authority to~~ may fine
5 any person, or employing entity, who performs plumbing work or engages in the
6 business of plumbing while not possessing a license or endorsement ~~issued by the~~
7 ~~board or otherwise in violation of this Chapter~~, subject to the provisions of the
8 Administrative Procedure Act, an amount not more than five thousand dollars. The
9 monies collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be used by the board in a manner
10 consistent with R.S. 37:1371.

11 * * *

12 §1376. Exceptions

13 * * *

14 C. The provisions of this Section do not apply to persons licensed pursuant
15 to R.S. 37:2167.

16 §1377. Definitions; exceptions

17 A. Master plumber. A "master plumber" is a natural person who possesses
18 the necessary qualifications and knowledge to plan and lay out plumbing systems;
19 who supervises journeyman plumbers in the installation, alteration, and/or repair of
20 plumbing systems; and who ~~is~~ may be licensed as such by the board.

21 B.(1) Journeyman plumber. A "journeyman plumber" is a natural person
22 who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter, repair, and
23 maintain plumbing systems; ~~is~~ may be licensed as such by the board; is supervised
24 by a master plumber; and is in the employ of an employing entity.

25 (2) Residential plumber limited. A "residential plumber limited" is a natural
26 person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter,
27 repair, and maintain plumbing systems and ~~is~~ may be licensed by the board to install,

1 alter, repair, and maintain plumbing systems in one- and two-family dwellings at the
2 direction of a master plumber without the supervision of a journeyman plumber.

3 C.(1) Apprentice plumber. An "apprentice plumber" is a natural person
4 engaged in learning the plumbing trade by working under the direct, on-the-job
5 supervision of a journeyman plumber and in the employ of an employing entity.
6 Apprentice plumbers ~~shall~~ may be indentured in an apprenticeship program approved
7 by Louisiana Works or unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity.

8 * * *

9 L.(1) "Equivalent license" means a license issued pursuant to R.S. 37:2167
10 that has all of the following characteristics:

11 (a) Requires successful passage of a standardized examination demonstrating
12 competency in plumbing codes, safety, and installation practices.

13 (b) Requires completion of a minimum number of supervised work hours or
14 experience sufficient to demonstrate practical competency, as established by rule of
15 the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

16 (c) Establishes a defined scope of work authorized in accordance with such
17 license.

18 (d) Requires compliance with all applicable building codes and permitting
19 requirements.

20 (e) Requires maintenance of insurance policies for workers' compensation
21 and for general liability in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars for each
22 policy.

23 (f) May include supervision or project limitations as established by rule.

24 (2) No license issued pursuant to R.S. 37:2167 shall be considered equivalent
25 unless it meets the requirements of this Subsection.

26 §1378. Revocation of licenses; other disciplinary actions

27 A. The board may, pursuant to the procedures provided in the Administrative
28 Procedure Act, revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any license or endorsement

1 issued by the board to any natural person. Grounds for revocation, or lesser
2 disciplinary action, include but are not limited to the following:

3 * * *

4 (6) The habitual practice of a residential plumber limited, journeyman
5 plumber, master plumber, medical gas piping installer, or holder of a water supply
6 protection specialist endorsement to knowingly allow any person not licensed by the
7 board or by the State Licensing Board for Contractors to perform plumbing work,
8 medical gas piping installation, or the work of a water supply protection specialist,
9 except as otherwise authorized by this Chapter.

10 * * *

11 §1380. Insurance requirements for master plumbers and master natural gas fitters
12 A. No master plumber license or master natural gas fitter license shall be
13 issued, renewed, or revived pursuant to this Chapter until the applicant has provided
14 proof acceptable to the board that insurance has been issued to the employing entity
15 which is designated in accordance with R.S. 37:1367 by an insurer authorized to do
16 business in this state.

17 * * *

18 §2150.1. Definitions

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

20 * * *

21 (25) "Plumber" means a person who performs the work or business of
22 installing in buildings and on premises the pipes, fixtures, and other apparatus for
23 supplying water, or removing liquid waste and/or water-borne waste, and fixtures,
24 vessels and process piping that is in direct contact with products for human
25 consumption. The term is also used to designate the installed fixtures, drainage
26 fixtures and water distribution systems of buildings or premises.

27 * * *

1 I.(+) Any plumbing contractor who currently holds a Master Plumber
2 License from the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana shall be exempt from any trade
3 examination requirement.

4 ~~(2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permit plumbing contractors~~
5 ~~to perform plumbing work without first complying with the licensure provisions of~~
6 ~~Chapter 16 of this Title, R.S. 37:1361 et seq.~~

7 * * *

8 §2165. Bid procedures; penalty

9 A.

10 * * *

11 (3) On any project that has been classified by the architect or engineer, prior
12 to the bid, as a plumbing project, bids may be accepted ~~only~~ from those who have an
13 active license pursuant to this Chapter or from those who have as a qualifying party
14 a person who has complied with the provisions of Chapter 16 of this Title, R.S.
15 37:1361 et seq.

16 * * *

17 §2167. Plumbers; licensing; testing

18 A.(1) The Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors may establish an
19 alternative pathway for licensure of individuals performing plumbing work based on
20 demonstrated competency through examination and practical experience
21 requirements.

22 (2) The required experience shall be sufficient to ensure basic competency
23 and shall be established by rule.

24 (3) A licensee pursuant to this Section is required to maintain insurance
25 policies for general liability and workers' compensation in the amounts of three
26 hundred thousand dollars each.

27 (4) Any license issued pursuant to this Section shall meet the definition of
28 "equivalent license" as provided in R.S. 37:1377.

1 (5) Any license issued pursuant to this Section shall be designated as a
2 "Certified Plumbing Technician" or similar title and shall not be titled "master
3 plumber", "journeyman plumber", or "residential plumber".

4 B. The State Licensing Board for Contractors shall have the authority to
5 promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
6 Act to implement this Section, including requirements and fees for licensure and
7 procedures for the suspension or revocation of licenses issued pursuant to this
8 Section.

9 C. A person holding a license granted pursuant to this Section may offer or
10 contract for any work or job for which a license of equivalent rank issued pursuant
11 to R.S. 37:1361, et seq. is required.

12 D. The provisions of this Section apply notwithstanding any law to the
13 contrary.

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 953 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

Abstract: Grants concurrent authority to license plumbers to the State Board for Contractors in addition to the authority held by the State Plumbing Board.

Present law provides the State Plumbing Board is the sole and exclusive agency with power to license plumbers and plumbing businesses in this state.

Proposed law makes the State Plumbing Board one of the agencies with this power.

Present law provides that the State Plumbing Board adopt tests of qualifications to be possessed by any person engaged in the duties of residential plumbers, journeyman plumbers, master plumbers, and water protection supply specialists.

Proposed law provides that the La. State Licensing Bd. for Contractors may establish an alternative pathway for plumbing licensure based on demonstrated competency through examination and practical experience requirements.

Present law provides that no natural person shall engage in the work of a residential plumber unless he holds a residential plumber limited license, with similar licensing requirements needed for the work of journeyman plumbers, apprentices, master plumbers, and water supply protection specialists.

Proposed law amends present law to allow the La. State Licensing Bd. for Contractors to establish an equivalent license to allow a person to engage in plumbing work designated as a "Certified Plumbing Technician" or similarly-titled license.

Proposed law defines "equivalent license" as a license that to be considered equivalent shall have all of the following characteristics:

- (1) Requires successful passage of a standardized examination demonstrating competency in plumbing codes, safety, and installation practices.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Establishes a defined scope of work authorized in accordance with such license.
- (4) Requires compliance with all applicable building codes and permitting requirements.
- (5) Requires maintenance of insurance policies for workers' compensation and for general liability in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars for each policy.
- (6) May include supervision or project limitations as established by rule.

Present law allows a master plumber to become licensed as such only if he was previously licensed as a journeyman plumber by the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law also allows a person to eventually become licensed as a master plumber if he first held an equivalent license as may be created pursuant to proposed law.

Present law provides that no entity shall engage in the business of plumbing without the employ of a master plumber.

Proposed law allows such a business to an individual licensed pursuant to proposed law.

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

Proposed law specifies that these fees may be fixed only for licenses and examinations pursuant to present law.

Present law provides the State Plumbing Board with 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 clarifies that this power extends only to those licensed pursuant to present law.

Present law provides for the State Plumbing Board to fine any person performing plumbing work without a license issued by the Board.

Proposed law provides that the State Plumbing Board may only fine those performing plumbing work without any license whatsoever.

Present law provides for the licensing of journeymen who have not been previously licensed who fall under the jurisdiction of the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law specifies that these provisions do not apply to persons who hold relevant licenses pursuant to proposed law.

Present law provides for definitions of the various grades of plumbers, who each shall hold a license from the State Plumbing Board to do that particular work.

Proposed law changes present law to allow persons holding an equivalent license as defined by proposed law and as may be issued by the La. State Bd. for Contractors to do that particular work.

Present law provides that the State Plumbing Board may revoke licenses from plumbers who knowingly allow persons not licensed by that board to perform work.

Proposed law makes an exception for plumbers licensed by the La. State Bd. for Contractors.

Present law provides that plumbing licensees must provide proof of insurance to the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law specifies that this refers only to licenses issued pursuant to present law.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law defines "plumber".

Present law provides that nothing in present law regarding contractors shall be presumed to permit plumbing contractors to engage in plumbing work without licenses issued by the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law repeals this requirement.

Present law provides that on contracting projects classified as plumbing projects, bids may be accepted only from those who have as a qualifying party a person who has complied with plumber licensing provisions pursuant to present law.

Proposed law also allows bids from plumbers licensed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law gives the State Board for Contractors the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a person holding a license pursuant to proposed law may offer or contract for any job for which a license of equivalent rank issued by the State Plumbing Board is required.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of proposed law applies notwithstanding any law to the contrary.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(A), 1366(A), (B), (H), and (K), 1367(A), (B), (C), (E), and (G), 1371(A)(1), 1373(A), 1374(B)(1), 1377(A), (B), and (C)(1), 1377(A)6), 1380(A), 2150.1(I), and 2165(A)(3); Adds R.S. 37:1376(C), 1377(L), 2150.1(25), and 2167)

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 shall have 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 adds 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.