
DIGEST

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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.