

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1197

BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER

PLUMBERS: Provides relative to plumbing

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1374(C) and 1378(A) and to enact R.S. 37:1374(D), relative  
3 to regulation of plumbers; to provide administrative fines for violations; to provide  
4 grounds for revocation of licenses and other disciplinary actions; and to provide for  
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:1374(C) and 1378(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 37:1374(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1374. Penalty

10 \* \* \*

11 C.(1) In addition to the authority provided in Subsection B of this Section,  
12 and subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the State  
13 Plumbing Board may assess administrative fines of not less than five hundred dollars  
14 nor more than five thousand dollars per violation against any person or employing  
15 entity for violations of this Chapter or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this  
16 Chapter.

17 (2) An administrative fine pursuant to this Subsection may be assessed for  
18 each separate violation, and shall do all of the following:

19 (a) Not require the filing of a consumer complaint.

20 (b) Be imposed only after notice and an opportunity for hearing as required  
21 by the Administrative Procedure Act.

22 (c) Be independent of any criminal prosecution.



1           (5) The ~~habitual~~ practice of a master plumber to knowingly allow any  
2           employing entity to hold itself out as engaging in the business of plumbing at a time  
3           when the employing entity does not employ the master plumber as designated to the  
4           board.

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

11          (7) A final determination of ~~The~~ the violation of any applicable municipal  
12          ~~or other local plumbing codes~~ adopted code related to plumbing or gas fitting by any  
13          local government entity not otherwise preempted by this Chapter or related  
14          ~~regulations as evidenced by adjudication before local governing authorities.~~

15          (8) ~~The habitual violation~~ Violation of any provision of this Chapter or any  
16          ~~by a master plumber, journeyman plumber, residential plumber limited, apprentice~~  
17          ~~plumber, medical gas piping installer, medical gas and vacuum systems verifier, or~~  
18          ~~holder of a water supply protection specialist endorsement of the rules and~~  
19          ~~regulations adopted by the board~~ pursuant to this Chapter.

20          (9) ~~The habitual violation of any rules or regulations adopted by the board~~  
21          ~~by a gas fitter or master gas fitter~~ Past inability of the applicant or licensee to  
22          lawfully and competently engage in work regulated in accordance with this Chapter,  
23          as demonstrated by prior documented violations of this Chapter, adjudicated  
24          violations of applicable codes, or prior disciplinary actions by another governmental  
25          authority.

26          (10) ~~The violation of any municipal code, any other code adopted by the~~  
27          ~~board related to gas fitting not otherwise preempted by this Chapter, or any other~~  
28          ~~related regulation as evidenced by an adjudication from a local governing authority~~  
29          Any dishonest, fraudulent, deceptive, or grossly negligent act committed in the

1 course of performing work regulated by this Chapter or in communications with the  
2 board.

3 (11) ~~The refusal of a master gas fitter to accurately designate an employing~~  
4 ~~entity or provide notice of any change in employment with an employing entity~~  
5 Abandoning regulated work or failing to perform any regulated work undertaken by  
6 a licensee without justification.

7 (12) Final disciplinary action, including disqualification, suspension,  
8 revocation, consent order, or other restriction of a license imposed by another state  
9 or governmental entity, including but not limited to the State Licensing Board for  
10 Contractors, constitutes grounds for disciplinary action by this board.

11 (13) Failure to maintain any qualification required for licensure pursuant to  
12 this Chapter.

13 (14) Representing, advertising, publishing, or otherwise holding oneself out  
14 as licensed or endorsed by the board when not in possession of a valid license or  
15 endorsement issued pursuant to this Chapter.

16 (15) Performing any work regulated by this Chapter without proper licensure.

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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)]

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HB 1197 Original                      2026 Regular Session                      Riser

**Abstract:** Provides for penalties and administrative fines for plumbers who violate the law or rules and regulations.

Present law provides for penalties for violations of present law, including administrative fines for a person who performs plumbing work while not possessing a license or endorsement issued in accordance with present law. Proposed law gives discretion to the State Plumbing Bd. to also assess administrative fines of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5000 per violation against any person or employing entity for violations of present law or rules and regulations adopted pursuant to present law.

Proposed law provides that an administrative fine issued pursuant to proposed law may be assessed for each separate violation, shall not require the filing of a consumer complaint, shall be imposed only after notice and an opportunity for hearing, and shall be independent of any criminal prosecution.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

Present law allows the State Plumbing Bd. to revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew a license or endorsement issued by the State Plumbing Bd. on certain grounds. Proposed law adds to present law that the State Plumbing Bd. may refuse to issue a license or endorsement or to issue cease-and-desist orders to, assess administrative fines to, or otherwise discipline a licensee or applicant subject to the jurisdiction of the board.

Present law provides grounds for which disciplinary measures may be imposed, including any of the following:

- (1) Conviction of a felony.
- (2) Falsification of any material portion of a licensee's application or other requisite submission to the board; including but not limited to insurance, work, training, or experience verifications.
- (3) The habitual performance of the work of either a residential plumber limited, journeyman plumber, or a master plumber which is substantially below the standards established by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) or any of its agencies or offices, or the habitual performance of work of a medical gas installer or medical gas and vacuum systems verifier not in compliance with regulations of the state fire marshal or related local governmental codes.
- (4) The refusal of a master plumber, after notice from the board, to accurately designate an employment entity in his application, his renewal, or upon any change in employment status with an employing entity.
- (5) The habitual practice of a master plumber to knowingly allow any employing entity to hold itself out as engaging in the business of plumbing at a time when the employing entity does not employ the master plumber as designated to the board.
- (6) The habitual practice of a residential plumber limited, journeyman plumber, master plumber, medical gas piping installer, or holder of a water supply protection specialist endorsement to knowingly allow any person not licensed by the board to perform plumbing work, medical gas piping installation, or the work of a water supply protection specialist, except as otherwise authorized by present law.
- (7) The violation of municipal or other local plumbing codes not otherwise preempted by present law or related regulations as evidenced by adjudication before local governing authorities.
- (8) The habitual violation by a master plumber, journeyman plumber, residential plumber limited, apprentice plumber, medical gas piping installer, medical gas and vacuum systems verifier, or holder of a water supply protection specialist endorsement of the rules and regulations adopted by the board.
- (9) The habitual violation of any rules or regulations adopted by the board by a gas fitter or master gas fitter.
- (10) The violation of any municipal code, any other code adopted by the board related to gas fitting not otherwise preempted by present law, or any other related regulation as evidenced by an adjudication from a local governing authority.
- (11) The refusal of a master gas fitter to accurately designate an employing entity or provide notice of any change in employment with an employing entity.

Proposed law changes those grounds for disciplinary measures in present law to provide for discipline for any of the following:

- (1) Conviction of a felony related to the practices regulated by proposed law.
- (2) Falsification of any material portion of a licensee's application or other submission to the board.
- (3) The performance of work regulated by proposed law which is below the standards established by the LDH or any of its agencies or offices, the state fire marshal, applicable adopted codes, or board regulations.
- (4) Failure of a master plumber, master gas fitter, or other licensee required by proposed law to designate or maintain an employing entity, or to provide written notice to the board of any change in employment status.
- (5) The practice of a master plumber to knowingly allow any employing entity to hold itself out as engaging in the business of plumbing at a time when the employing entity does not employ the master plumber as designated to the board.
- (6) The practice of any licensee to knowingly allow any person not licensed by the board to perform work regulated by proposed law, except as otherwise authorized in proposed law.
- (7) A final determination of the violation of any applicable municipal or adopted code related to plumbing or gas fitting by any local government entity.
- (8) Violation of any provision of proposed law or any rules adopted pursuant to proposed law.
- (9) Past inability of the applicant or licensee to lawfully and competently engage in work regulated pursuant to proposed law, as demonstrated by prior documented violations of proposed law, adjudicated violations of applicable codes, or prior disciplinary actions by another governmental authority.
- (10) Any dishonest, fraudulent, deceptive, or grossly negligent act committed in the course of performing work regulated by proposed law or in communications with the board.
- (11) Abandoning regulated work or failing to perform any regulated work undertaken by a licensee without justification.
- (12) Final disciplinary action, including disqualification, suspension, revocation, consent order, or other restriction of a license imposed by another state or governmental entity, including but not limited to the State Licensing Bd. for Contractors, shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action by this board.
- (13) Failure to maintain any qualification required for licensure pursuant to proposed law.
- (14) Representing, advertising, publishing, or otherwise holding oneself out as licensed or endorsed by the board when not in possession of a valid license or endorsement issued pursuant to proposed law.
- (15) Performing any work regulated by proposed law without proper licensure.

(Amends R.S. 37:1374(C) and 1378(A); Adds R.S. 37:1374(D))