
DIGEST

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HB 785 Original

2018 Regular Session

Carmody

Abstract: Excludes mechanical contractors licensed by the La. State Licensing Board for contractors under the subclassification of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, duct work, and refrigeration from certain plumbing provisions.

Present law designates the State Plumbing Board (hereinafter "plumbing board") as the sole and exclusive agency in this state empowered to license any natural person or regulated business entity engaged or seeking to engage in the business of gas fitting work for the general public. Gas fitting work includes installation, repair, improvement, alterations, or removal of natural gas piping, tanks, and appliances annexed to real property.

Proposed law retains present law.

The provisions of present law do not supersede authority of the La. State Licensing Board for Contractors (hereinafter "contractors board") to regulate mechanical contractors as defined in present law.

Proposed law expands the present law reference to mechanical contractors to include mechanical contractors classified under the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (hereinafter "HVAC"), duct work, and refrigeration subclassification of mechanical contractors. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law prohibits a person from performing the work of a gas fitter or master gas fitter unless such person possesses a license or renewal license issued by the plumbing board. The present law prohibition does not apply to work performed by persons on their own residences.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that the present law requirement to obtain a gas fitter or master gas fitter license does not apply to a mechanical contractor licensed by the contractors board who is either of the following:

- (1) Engaged or seeking to engage in the business of HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration.
- (2) Classified under the HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration subclassification of mechanical contractors as provided in present law, including the performance of services or other work pursuant to such license.

Present law provides that a gas fitter includes any natural person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter, repair, improve, remove, or test natural gas piping, tanks, and appliances annexed to real property. Provides that a gas fitter does not include any person licensed by the La. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission or any services or work performed pursuant to such license.

Proposed law adds that a gas fitter includes a business entity licensed or permitted by the La. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that a master gas fitter includes any natural person who possesses the necessary skills, abilities, proficiency, and qualifications to plan and lay out the details for installing and supervising the work of installing, repairing, and maintaining types of materials and equipment used for the construction, repair, removal, or improvement to natural gas piping systems and tanks annexed to real property. Provides that a master gas fitter does not include any person licensed by the La. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission or any services or work performed pursuant to such license.

Proposed law adds that a gas fitter includes a business entity licensed or permitted by the La. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law adds that a gas fitter and master gas fitter also does not include a person or business entity licensed by the contractors board as a mechanical contractor who is either of the following:

- (1) Engaged or seeking to engage in the business of HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration.
- (2) Classified under the HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration subclassification of mechanical contractors as provided in present law, including the performance of services or other work pursuant to such license.

Present law provides that gas fitting means the work or business of installing, repairing, improving, altering, or removing natural gas piping, fittings, valves, or tanks used for conveying fuel gas for appliances on or in premises or in buildings annexed to real property. Provides that gas fitting does not include the following:

- (1) Installation or maintenance of piping by any entity of a municipal or gas district system subject to the regulatory authority of the Public Service Commission, the N.O. City Council, or the office of pipeline safety in the Dept. of Natural Resources.
- (2) Any work done by a person who is licensed by the La. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission or any other services performed pursuant to such a license.

Proposed law adds that gas fitting also does not include any service or work performed by a person or business entity licensed by the contractors board as a mechanical contractor who is either of the following:

(1) Engaged or seeking to engage in the business of HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration.

(2) Classified under the HVAC, duct work, and refrigeration subclassification of mechanical contractors as defined in present law, including the performance of services or other work pursuant to such license.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Effective upon signature of governor or June 1, 2018, whichever occurs earlier.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(F)(1)(b)(i) and 1377(I) and (J); Adds R.S. 37:1361(F)(3), 1367(J)(3), and 1377(K)(3))