

**SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs to Reengrossed House Bill No. 953 by Representative Fontenot

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "amend and reenact" delete the remainder of the line and delete lines  
3 3 through 12 and insert:

4 " the introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:1361(B), 1361(B)(5), (D), and (E), 1366(C)  
5 and (L), 1368(A) and (B)(1), 1374(C), and 1377(B) and (C) and to enact R.S. 37:1366 (M)  
6 and (N), 1374(D), and 1381, relative to the State Plumbing Board, to provide for  
7 membership of the board, to provide for training requirements for licensure, to provide for  
8 administrative assessments for statutory and regulatory violations, to provide for reporting  
9 requirements, to provide"

10 AMENDMENT NO. 2

11 On page 1, after "Section 1." delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 17 through 19  
12 and insert:

13 " the introductory paragraph of R.S. 37:1361(B), 1361(B)(5), (D), and (E), 1366(C)  
14 and (L), 1368(A) and (B)(1), 1374(C), and 1377(B) and (C) are hereby amended and  
15 reenacted and R.S. 37:1366 (M) and (N), 1374(D), and 1381, are hereby enacted to read as  
16 follows:"

17 AMENDMENT NO. 3

18 Delete pages 2 through 22, and insert:

19 "§1361. State Plumbing Board; appointments; qualifications; legislative intent;  
20 authority

21 \* \* \*

22 B. The State Plumbing Board is created. The board, which shall be appointed  
23 by the governor, shall consist of one registered mechanical engineer who is also  
24 licensed by the State Plumbing Board, one plumbing inspector who is also licensed  
25 by the State Plumbing Board, five master plumbers, one journeyman plumber, ~~one~~  
26 ~~residential plumber limited~~ two licensed contractors, and two members of the public.  
27 Each appointment shall be made in the following manner:

28 \* \* \*

29 (5) ~~The residential plumber limited by the governor~~ Two licensed contractors,  
30 one of whom shall be from a list of three names submitted by the Associated  
31 Builders and Contractors of Louisiana or its successor and one of whom shall be  
32 from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana Home Builders Association or  
33 its successor.

34 \* \* \*

35 D. All members shall be qualified electors of this state and, except for the  
36 licensed contractors and public members, shall be licensed by the board. The public  
37 members shall represent the general public and shall not earn their livelihood in a  
38 construction-related industry.

39 E. ~~Six~~ Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

40 \* \* \*

41 §1366. Duties of the board

42 \* \* \*

43 C. The board shall recognize the system of qualification or registration of  
44 apprentices as administered by joint and nonjoint apprenticeship committees  
45 approved by the director of apprenticeship and nonregistered apprentices in the  
46 employ of an employing entity or enrolled in an approved Louisiana Community and  
47 Technical College System training program.

\* \* \*

L. The board shall assist the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges in developing training, program, and course requirements that will prepare individuals to meet the qualifications established by the board for a residential plumber limited journeyman license.

M.(1) The board shall assess, in addition to any other fee, an annual fee of one hundred dollars on each plumbing contractor license renewal. The fee collected pursuant to this Subsection, shall be dedicated and allocated to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for use exclusively for training programs related to the plumbing trade.

(2) Monies collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be in addition to any other funds received by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and shall not replace, displace, or supplant any other monies received from the state or any other source.

(3) Monies collected pursuant to this Subsection shall be disbursed annually to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System by October first, following completion of the board's annual audit, after deducting an administrative fee from the total amount collected to be retained by the board.

N. On August 1, 2026, a residential plumber limited holding a valid license issued by the board shall become a licensed journeyman plumber.

\* \* \*

§1368. Issuance of residential, journeyman; and master plumber's license; medical gas piping and installation license; medical gas and vacuum systems verifier license; water supply protection specialist endorsement; exemption; gas fitter

A.(1) The board shall issue a residential plumber limited journeyman license to any person who meets the following qualifications:

(a) (1) Has a current unindentured or indentured apprentice registration certificate issued by the board.

(b)(2) Has worked any of the following:

(a) At least two thousand verifiable hours as an indentured apprentice at the manual labor of plumbing under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a journeyman or master plumber licensed by the board.

(b) Has worked at At least four thousand two thousand five hundred verifiable hours as an unindentured apprentice or at least three thousand hours as an indentured apprentice at the manual labor of plumbing under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a journeyman or master plumber licensed by the board.

(c) At least one thousand verifiable hours as an unindentured apprentice at the manual labor of plumbing under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a journeyman or master plumber licensed by the board and holds a certificate of completion of an approved training program through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, including through a re-entry program.

(3) Has successfully completed any educational requirements established by the board.

(d)(4) Has passed any written or manual examination required by the board.

(e)(5) Has paid the fees established by the board.

(2) The board shall issue a license to any person who qualifies under the state board's regulations and who desires to engage in doing the work of a journeyman plumber if he passes a written and manual journeyman plumber's examination given by the board and pays the fees established by the board.

B.(1) The board shall issue a license to any licensed journeyman plumber or other person who qualifies under the board's regulations and who desires to engage in the work of a master plumber, provided he passes a written master plumber's examination which shall be a standardized, nationally recognized test adopted by the board, pays the fees established by the board, and satisfies the provisions of R.S. 37:1367(B). and meets all of the following qualifications:

(a) Has worked at least one thousand five hundred verifiable hours as a licensed journeyman plumber.

(b) Has successfully completed a twenty four hour responsible master plumber course.

(c) Has successfully passed any written or manual examination required by the board.

- (d) Submits to a criminal background check.
- (e) Has paid the fees established by the board.

\* \* \*

§1374. Penalty

\* \* \*

C. In addition to the authority provided in Subsection B of this Section and subject to promulgation, the board may assess administrative fines of not less than five hundred dollars and not more than five thousand dollars against any person, or employing entity, per violation of the provisions of this Chapter or any rule adopted by the board pursuant to its authority provided by this Chapter. An administrative fine assessed pursuant to this Subsection shall not be imposed unless notice and an opportunity to be heard has occurred, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Any administrative fine imposed pursuant to this Subsection shall not require the filing of a consumer complaint and shall be independent of any criminal prosecution resulting from the violation giving rise to the imposition of the administrative fine.

D. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to supersede the exceptions provided for in R.S. 37:1376 and 1377.

\* \* \*

§1377. Definitions; exceptions

\* \* \*

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

~~(2) Residential plumber limited. A "residential plumber limited" is a natural person who possesses the necessary qualifications and knowledge to install, alter, repair, and maintain plumbing systems and is licensed by the board to install, alter, repair, and maintain plumbing systems in one- and two-family dwellings at the direction of a master plumber without the supervision of a journeyman plumber.~~

C.(1) Apprentice plumber. An "apprentice plumber" is a natural person engaged in learning the plumbing trade by working under the direct, on-the-job supervision of a journeyman plumber and in the employ of an employing entity. Apprentice plumbers shall be indentured in an apprenticeship program approved by Louisiana Works or, unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity, or unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity while enrolled in an approved training program through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

(2) Apprentice gas fitter. An "apprentice gas fitter" is a natural person engaged in learning the gas fitting trade by working under the direct, on-the-job supervision of a gas fitter and in the employ of an employing entity. Apprentice gas fitters shall be indentured in an apprenticeship program approved by Louisiana Works or may be, unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity, or unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity while enrolled in an approved training program through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

\* \* \*

§1381. Reporting requirements

A. The legislature hereby recognizes the importance of the occupational field of plumbing and the necessity of expanding recruitment, especially in the population of minority students, as the pool of licensed plumbing professionals has not grown at the same pace of need for the occupation. It is the intent of the legislature that the board increase outreach to minority students for recruitment into the occupational field of plumbing.

B. The board, in consultation and collaboration with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Louisiana Community and Technology College System, and any other vocational programs identified by the board, shall survey all efforts in effect to encourage minority participation in the occupational filed of plumbing. No later than April 12, 2027, the board shall submit a report of the survey the status of licensed plumbers in the state, to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs. The report shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1                   (1) The total number of licensed plumbers as of August 1, 2026.
- 2                   (2) The number of licenses issued from August 1, 2026, through April 1,
- 3                   2027, delineating the demographic information of all licensees.
- 4                   (3) Methods to increase minority participation in the occupational field of
- 5                   plumbing, including recruitment and educational grant opportunities."