

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 953

2026 Regular Session

Fontenot

PLUMBERS: Provides relative to plumbing licenses

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes provisions of proposed law creating the Plumbing Contractors Subcommittee within the State Licensing Board for Contractors, abolishing the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana, and transferring all powers, duties, property, and obligations of the plumbing board to the contractors board.
2. Increases State Plumbing Board membership from 11 members to 12 members by removing one residential plumber limited board member and adding two licensed contractors selected by the governor, one selected from a list of three names submitted by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana, and one selected from a list of three names submitted by the Louisiana Home Builders Association or its successor, and increases the number of members that constitute a quorum from six to seven.
3. Exempts the two licensed contractor board members from the requirement that members be licensed by the State Plumbing Board.
4. Requires the board to recognize the qualification or registration of apprentices through enrollment in an approved training program administered by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).
5. Provides that the State Plumbing Board shall assist in developing journeyman training programs, imposes a \$100 contractor renewal fee dedicated to LCTCS plumbing training, and establishes requirements for the use and annual disbursement of LCTCS training funds.
6. Removes references to residential plumber limited licensure in proposed law and provides that any residential plumber limited licensees holding a valid license on August 1, 2026 shall become journeyman plumber licensees on that date by operation of law.
7. Reduces journeyman licensure apprenticeship work hour requirements to 2,000 indentured apprenticeship hours, or 2,500 unindentured apprenticeship hours, or 1,000 unindentured apprenticeship hours plus approved LCTCS training.
6. Amends requirements for master plumber licensure to 1,500 work hours as a journeyman, completion of a 24-hour responsibility course, passage of exams, a criminal background check, and payment of fees.
7. Authorizes administrative fines of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5000 for violations of proposed law, after notice and hearing. Further provides that administrative fines imposed shall not require the filing of a consumer complaint and shall be independent of any criminal prosecution.
8. Removes the definition of "residential limited plumber", and amends the definition of "apprentice plumber" and "apprentice gas fitter".
9. States legislative intent to expand plumbing recruitment, particularly of minority students, and requires a report on minority workforce data, license issuance, demographics, and recruitment efforts by April 12, 2027, to the House and Senate commerce committees.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law creates the State Plumbing Board (board) and provides for its membership, including one mechanical engineer, one plumbing inspector, five master plumbers, one journeyman plumber, one residential plumber limited, and two members of the public.

Proposed law retains present law except it removes the residential plumber limited member from the board and adds two licensed contractor members, appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Louisiana and the Louisiana Home Builders Association.

Present law provides that all members, except for the public members, shall be qualified electors of this state and licensed by the board. Further provides that six members shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed law retains present law except it removes the requirement for the licensed contractors to be licensed by the board and increases the number of members to constitute a quorum from six to seven.

Present law requires the board to recognize the system of qualification or registration of apprentices administered by approved apprenticeship programs and nonregistered apprentices employed by an entity.

Proposed law requires recognition of apprentices enrolled in an approved Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) plumbing training program, but otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the board to assist the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges in developing training, program, and course requirements to prepare individuals for residential plumber limited licensure.

Proposed law requires the board to assist in developing training, program, and course requirements to prepare individuals to meet the qualifications for a journeyman plumber license, and removes references to residential plumber limited licensure.

Proposed law requires the board to assess an annual \$100 fee on plumbing contractor license renewals and dedicates the proceeds to LCTCS plumbing training programs.

Proposed law provides that monies collected for plumbing training programs are supplemental and shall not replace, displace, or supplant any other funding received by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

Proposed law requires annual disbursement of such funds to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System by October 1st following the board's annual audit, after deducting an administrative fee retained by the board.

Proposed law provides that on August 1, 2026, a residential plumber limited licensee holding a valid license issued by the board shall become a licensed journeyman plumber by operation of law.

Present law provides for the issuance of residential plumber limited and journeyman plumber licenses. Further provides that applicants for a residential plumber limited license shall have a current apprentice registration certificate, complete at least 4,000 hours as an unindentured apprentice or at least 3,000 hours as an indentured apprentice under supervision, satisfy educational requirements, pass required examinations, and pay applicable fees.

Proposed law removes references to residential plumber limited licensure and amends requirements for journeyman plumber licensure, including possession of an unindentured or indentured apprentice registration certificate and completion of at least 2,000 hours as an

indentured apprentice, or at least 2,500 hours as an unindentured apprentice, or at least 1,000 hours as an unindentured apprentice and completion of an approved LCTCS training program. Further requires completion of educational requirements, passage of examinations, and payment of fees.

Present law provides that the board shall issue a license to any person who qualifies under the board's regulations and who desires to engage in the work of a journeyman plumber if that person passes a written and manual journeyman plumber examination administered by the board and pays fees established by the board.

Proposed law repeals this provision of present law.

Present law provides that the board shall issue a master plumber license to any licensed journeyman plumber or other qualified applicant who passes a written master plumber examination, pays applicable fees, and satisfies statutory requirements.

Proposed law retains present law except establishes specific qualification requirements for master plumber licensure, including at least 1,500 verifiable hours as a licensed journeyman plumber, completion of a 24-hour responsible master plumber course, passage of required examinations, submission to a criminal background check, and payment of applicable fees.

Present law provides for penalties and enforcement by the board.

Proposed law authorizes the board to assess administrative fines of \$500 to \$5,000 per violation following notice and an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to present law for violations of proposed law or rules promulgated pursuant to proposed law, and provides that such fines are independent of consumer complaints and any criminal prosecution.

Present law defines the terms "journeyman plumber", "residential plumber limited", "apprentice plumber", and "apprentice gas fitter".

Proposed law repeals the definition of "residential plumber limited" and amends the definition of "apprentice plumber" and "apprentice gas fitter" to require such persons to be either indentured in an apprenticeship program approved by Louisiana Works, or employed as unindentured apprentices while enrolled in an approved LCTCS plumbing training program.

Proposed law establishes legislative intent to increase recruitment, particularly among minority students, in the plumbing field. Further requires the board, in collaboration with the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and LCTCS, to survey current efforts and submit a report by April 12, 2027, to the House and Senate committees on commerce on the status of minority plumbing licensure in the state. Further requires the report to include the total number of licensed plumbers as of August 1, 2026, the number of licenses issued from August 1, 2026 through April 1, 2027, including demographic data, and methods to increase minority participation, including recruitment and educational opportunities.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(B)(intro para), 1361(B)(5), (D), and (E), 1366(C) and (L), 1368(A) and (B)(1), 1374(C), and 1377(B) and (C); Adds R.S. 37:1366 (M) and (N), 1374(D), and 1381)