

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 1758

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for a plumber's apprentice to obtain a plumber's license.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1301.354, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(b) A person who has worked as a plumber's apprentice for a period established by law or board rule may apply to ~~[for and]~~ take an examination for a license as a journeyman plumber or tradesman plumber-limited license holder. Before the applicant may take the examination, the applicant must complete classroom training provided by a board-approved instructor in a board-approved training program in the areas of health and safety, applicable plumbing codes, and water conservation for at least:

(1) 24 hours if the applicant is applying to take a tradesman plumber-limited license holder examination; or

(2) 48 hours if the applicant is applying to take a journeyman plumber examination.

(c) At the applicant's request, the board may credit an applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 1,000 hours of the work experience required before taking an examination if the applicant has completed the classroom portion of a training program:

(1) approved by the United States Department of Labor,

1 Office of Apprenticeship; or

2 (2) provided by a person approved by the board and
3 based on course materials approved by the board.

4 (d) Notwithstanding the classroom training required by
5 Subsection (b), a plumber's apprentice may apply for and take an
6 examination for a license as a journeyman plumber or tradesman
7 plumber-limited license holder if the apprentice has received an
8 associate of applied science degree from a plumbing technology
9 program that:

10 (1) includes a combination of classroom and on-the-job
11 training; and

12 (2) is approved by the board and the Texas Higher
13 Education Coordinating Board.

14 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a plumber's apprentice
15 who is enrolled in good standing in a training program approved by
16 the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship,
17 may take an examination without completing the classroom training
18 required by Subsection (b)(1) or (2).

19 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
20 an application to take an examination submitted to the Texas State
21 Board of Plumbing Examiners on or after the effective date of this
22 Act. An application submitted before the effective date of this Act
23 is governed by the law in effect on the date the application is
24 submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that
25 purpose.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.