

1-1 By: Thompson (Senate Sponsor - Carona) H.B. No. 1758
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 1, 2009;
1-3 April 7, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Business and Commerce; May 6, 2009, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 6, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the requirements for a plumber's apprentice to obtain a
1-9 plumber's license.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 1301.354, Occupations Code, is amended
1-12 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e)
1-13 to read as follows:

1-14 (b) A person who has worked as a plumber's apprentice for a
1-15 period established by law or board rule may apply to ~~[for and]~~ take
1-16 an examination for a license as a journeyman plumber or tradesman
1-17 plumber-limited license holder. Before the applicant may take the
1-18 examination, the applicant must complete classroom training
1-19 provided by a board-approved instructor in a board-approved
1-20 training program in the areas of health and safety, applicable
1-21 plumbing codes, and water conservation for at least:

1-22 (1) 24 hours if the applicant is applying to take a
1-23 tradesman plumber-limited license holder examination; or

1-24 (2) 48 hours if the applicant is applying to take a
1-25 journeyman plumber examination.

1-26 (c) At the applicant's request, the board may credit an
1-27 applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 500 hours of the work
1-28 experience required before taking an examination if the applicant
1-29 has completed the classroom portion of a training program:

1-30 (1) approved by the United States Department of Labor,
1-31 Office of Apprenticeship; or

1-32 (2) provided by a person approved by the board and
1-33 based on course materials approved by the board.

1-34 (d) Notwithstanding the classroom training required by
1-35 Subsection (b), a plumber's apprentice may apply for and take an
1-36 examination for a license as a journeyman plumber or tradesman
1-37 plumber-limited license holder if the apprentice has received an
1-38 associate of applied science degree from a plumbing technology
1-39 program that:

1-40 (1) includes a combination of classroom and on-the-job
1-41 training; and

1-42 (2) is approved by the board and the Texas Higher
1-43 Education Coordinating Board.

1-44 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a plumber's apprentice
1-45 who is enrolled in good standing in a training program approved by
1-46 the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship,
1-47 may take an examination without completing the classroom training
1-48 required by Subsection (b)(1) or (2).

1-49 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
1-50 an application to take an examination submitted to the Texas State
1-51 Board of Plumbing Examiners on or after the effective date of this
1-52 Act. An application submitted before the effective date of this Act
1-53 is governed by the law in effect on the date the application is
1-54 submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that
1-55 purpose.

1-56 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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