

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1244

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility requirements for licenses for certain
air conditioning and refrigeration contractors.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1302.255, Occupations Code, is amended
to read as follows:

Sec. 1302.255. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. (a) An applicant
for a license under this chapter must:

(1) be at least 18 years old; and

(2) have at least 48 [~~36~~] months of practical
experience with the tools of the trade in the preceding six [~~five~~]
years:

(A) under the supervision of a licensed air
conditioning and refrigeration contractor;

(B) as an employee of a school district in this
state;

(C) as an employee in an industrial process
plant; or

(D) while serving in the military.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of [~~For purposes of
determining an applicant's practical experience under~~] Subsection
(a)(2), an applicant may satisfy a portion of the practical
experience requirement as provided by Subsection (c).

(c) An applicant who obtains a degree or diploma or

1 completes a certification program from an institution of higher
2 education that holds a certificate of authority issued by the Texas
3 Higher Education Coordinating Board, or an equivalent governing
4 body in another state as approved by the executive director, may
5 satisfy a portion of the practical experience requirement as
6 follows:

7 (1) completing a four-year degree or diploma in air
8 conditioning technology [engineering], refrigeration technology
9 [engineering], or mechanical engineering is equivalent to 24 months
10 [two years] of practical experience [if:

11 ~~[(1) the degree or diploma is from an institution of~~
12 ~~higher education]; [and]~~

13 (2) completing a two-year associate's degree, a
14 two-year diploma, or a two-year certification program primarily
15 focused on air conditioning and refrigeration-related work is
16 equivalent to 12 months of practical experience; and

17 (3) completing a one-year certification program in air
18 conditioning and refrigeration-related work is equivalent to six
19 months of practical experience [the institution's program is
20 approved by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers for the
21 purpose of licensing engineers].

22 (d) Every 2,000 hours of on-the-job training in an air
23 conditioning and refrigeration apprenticeship program registered
24 with the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship
25 is equivalent to 12 months of practical experience under Subsection
26 (a)(2).

27 (e) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection (a)(2),

1 verified military service in which the person was trained in or
2 performed air conditioning and refrigeration-related work as part
3 of the person's military occupational specialty qualifies as
4 practical experience for purposes of satisfying the 48-month
5 requirement.

6 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than March 1, 2012, the Texas
7 Commission of Licensing and Regulation shall adopt rules to
8 implement Chapter 1302, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

9 (b) Section 1302.255, Occupations Code, as amended by this
10 Act, applies only to an application for an air conditioning and
11 refrigeration contractor license submitted to the Texas Department
12 of Licensing and Regulation on or after September 1, 2012. An
13 application for a license submitted before that date is governed by
14 the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
15 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.