

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of plumbing.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1301.002, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subdivisions (1-a), (2), (3), and (4) and adding Subdivision (1-b) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Control valve" means a valve that operates each time water is supplied to, or shut off from, a receptacle or plumbing fixture. The term does not include a stop valve that may be installed in the water supply branch to the control valve.

(1-b) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

(2) "Drain cleaner" means a person who:

(A) has completed at least 4,000 hours working under the supervision of a responsible master plumber as a drain cleaner-restricted registrant;

(B) has fulfilled the requirements of and is registered with the board; and

(C) installs cleanouts and removes and resets p-traps to eliminate obstructions in building drains and sewers under the supervision of a responsible master plumber.

(3) "Drain cleaner-restricted registrant" means a person who:

(A) has worked as a plumber's apprentice under

1 the supervision of a responsible master plumber;

2 (B) has fulfilled the requirements of and is
3 registered with the board; and

4 (C) clears obstructions in sewer and drain lines
5 through any code-approved existing opening under the supervision of
6 a responsible master plumber.

7 (4) "Journeyman plumber" means a person licensed under
8 this chapter who:

9 (A) has met the qualifications for registration
10 as a plumber's apprentice or for licensing as a tradesman
11 plumber-limited license holder;

12 (B) has completed at least 8,000 hours working
13 under the supervision of a responsible master plumber;

14 (C) installs, changes, repairs, services, or
15 renovates plumbing or supervises any of those activities under the
16 supervision of a responsible master plumber;

17 (D) has passed the required examination; and

18 (E) has fulfilled the other requirements of the
19 board.

20 SECTION 2. Section [1301.151\(a\)](#), Occupations Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (a) The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners consists of
23 nine members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent
24 of the senate as follows:

25 (1) one member who has at least 10 years' practical
26 experience and is licensed as a master plumber;

27 (2) one member who has at least five years' practical

1 experience and is licensed as a journeyman plumber;

2 (3) one member who has at least five years' practical
3 experience and is licensed as a plumbing inspector;

4 (4) one member who has been a responsible master
5 plumber for at least five years [~~is a plumbing contractor~~] with at
6 least 10 [~~five~~] years' experience as a licensed journeyman plumber
7 or master plumber;

8 (5) one member who is a licensed engineer practicing
9 in the field of plumbing engineering;

10 (6) two members who are building contractors with at
11 least five years' contracting experience, one of whom is
12 principally engaged in home building and one of whom is principally
13 engaged in commercial building; and

14 (7) two members who represent the public.

15 SECTION 3. Section 1301.202(a), Occupations Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) The board shall employ one or more plumbing examiners.
18 A plumbing examiner serves at the will of the board. A plumbing
19 examiner must:

20 (1) hold a license as a plumber issued under this
21 chapter;

22 (2) be knowledgeable of this chapter and municipal
23 ordinances relating to plumbing; and

24 (3) be qualified by experience and training in
25 plumbing practice.

26 SECTION 4. Section 1301.354(c), Occupations Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (c) At the applicant's request, the board may credit an
2 applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 1,000 [~~500~~] hours of the
3 work experience required before taking an examination if the
4 applicant has completed the classroom portion of a training
5 program:

6 (1) approved by the United States Department of Labor,
7 Office of Apprenticeship; or

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

10 SECTION 5. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply
11 only to an application for a certificate of registration as a drain
12 cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant submitted on or
13 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a
14 certificate of registration submitted before the effective date of
15 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
16 application was submitted, and the former law is continued in
17 effect for that purpose.

18 (b) A person who holds a certificate of registration as a
19 drain cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant issued before
20 the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that
21 certificate of registration without complying with the changes in
22 law made by this Act relating to the work requirement under the
23 supervision of a responsible master plumber.

24 (c) The change in law made by this Act applies only to an
25 application for a license as a journeyman plumber submitted on or
26 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a license
27 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the

1 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
2 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

3 (d) A person who holds a license as a journeyman plumber
4 issued before the effective date of this Act may continue to renew
5 that license without complying with the changes in law made by this
6 Act relating to the work requirement under the supervision of a
7 responsible master plumber.

8 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act to Section
9 [1301.151\(a\)](#), Occupations Code, does not affect the entitlement of a
10 member serving on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners
11 immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue to
12 serve as a member of the board for the remainder of the member's
13 term. The change in law applies only to a member appointed on or
14 after the effective date of this Act.

15 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2255 was passed by the House on April 16, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2255 on May 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2255 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor