

By: Larson, Gonzales

H.B. No. 2255

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of plumbing.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 1301.002(2), (3), and (4), Occupations Code, are amended to read as follows:

(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 the supervision of a responsible master plumber;

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

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

(4) "Journeyman plumber" means a person licensed under

1 this chapter who:

2 (A) has met the qualifications for registration
3 as a plumber's apprentice or for licensing as a tradesman
4 plumber-limited license holder;

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

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

10 (D) has passed the required examination; and

11 (E) has fulfilled the other requirements of the
12 board.

13 SECTION 2. Section [1301.354\(c\)](#), Occupations Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

24 SECTION 3. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply
25 only to an application for a certificate of registration as a drain
26 cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant submitted on or
27 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a

1 certificate of registration submitted before the effective date of
2 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
3 application was submitted, and the former law is continued in
4 effect for that purpose.

5 (b) A person who holds a certificate of registration as a
6 drain cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant issued before
7 the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that
8 certificate of registration without complying with the changes in
9 law made by this Act relating to the work requirement under the
10 supervision of a responsible master plumber.

11 (c) The change in law made by this Act applies only to an
12 application for a license as a journeyman plumber submitted on or
13 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a license
14 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
15 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
16 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.