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H.B. No. 4296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the regulation of plumbing, including the requirements
3 to obtain a tradesman plumber-limited license.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 1301.002(10), Occupations Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (10) "Tradesman plumber-limited license holder" means
8 a person who:

9 (A) has:

10 (i) completed at least 4,000 hours working
11 under the direct supervision of a journeyman or master plumber as a
12 plumber's apprentice; or

13 (ii) successfully completed a coherent
14 sequence of courses in the plumbing trade that are offered through a
15 career and technology education program, as described by Section
16 1301.3542;

17 (B) has passed the required examination;

18 (C) constructs and installs plumbing for
19 one-family or two-family dwellings under the supervision of a
20 responsible master plumber; and

21 (D) has fulfilled the other requirements of the
22 board.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 1301, Occupations Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 1301.3542 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 1301.3542. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR
2 TRADESMAN PLUMBER-LIMITED LICENSE; INSTRUCTORS. (a)
3 Notwithstanding Section 1301.354, a person who successfully
4 completes a coherent sequence of courses in the plumbing trade that
5 are offered through a career and technology education program under
6 Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, may apply for and take an
7 examination for a license as a tradesman plumber-limited license
8 holder. The board may not require the person to register as a
9 plumber's apprentice, pay any fee, or comply with Section 1301.354
10 or any other requirement of this chapter that applies to a person's
11 eligibility to apply for and take the examination.

12 (b) A student of any age enrolled in a high school is
13 eligible to take the sequence of courses described by Subsection
14 (a) without registering as a plumber's apprentice, paying any
15 registration fee, or complying with Section 1301.354 or any other
16 requirement of this chapter that applies to enrolling or
17 participating in those courses.

18 (c) If an applicant described by Subsection (a)
19 successfully passes the examination for a license as a tradesman
20 plumber-limited license holder, the board shall issue the applicant
21 the license.

22 (d) The board shall develop the courses described by
23 Subsection (a). The courses must be approved by the State Board of
24 Education.

25 (e) The courses must include an appropriate number of hours
26 of classroom instruction and a practical component. The board may
27 credit on-the-job training toward meeting the requirements under

1 the practical component.

2 (f) A person may not provide instruction in a career and
3 technology education program described by this section unless the
4 person is licensed under this chapter as a master plumber,
5 journeyman plumber, or plumbing inspector.

6 (g) A person described by Subsection (f) may provide the
7 instruction in a full-time or part-time capacity as an employee,
8 contractor, or volunteer of a high school.

9 (h) The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this
10 section, including procedures to verify a student's successful
11 completion of the sequence of courses described by Subsection (a).

12 SECTION 3. Section 1301.401, Occupations Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 1301.401. ANNUAL RENEWAL REQUIRED; EXCEPTION. (a) A
15 license or registration under this chapter is valid for one year.
16 Except as provided by Subsection (c), on [On] payment of the
17 required fee, a license may be renewed annually.

18 (b) The board by rule may adopt a system under which
19 licenses, endorsements, and registrations expire on various dates
20 during the year.

21 (c) A person who is employed by, under contract with, or
22 engaged as a volunteer by a school to provide instruction in a
23 career and technology education program described by Section
24 1301.3542 and provides meaningful course instruction in the
25 program, as determined under rules adopted under Section 1301.407,
26 is not required to pay a fee to renew the person's license.

27 SECTION 4. Section 1301.404, Occupations Code, is amended

1 by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

2 (g) A person who is employed by, under contract with, or
3 engaged as a volunteer by a school to provide instruction in a
4 career and technology education program described by Section
5 1301.3542 and provides meaningful course instruction in the
6 program, as determined under rules adopted under Section 1301.407,
7 may renew the person's license and any endorsement without
8 complying with Subsection (b) if the person completes the hours of
9 continuing professional education required by that subsection
10 every three years.

11 SECTION 5. Subchapter H, Chapter 1301, Occupations Code, is
12 amended by adding Section 1301.407 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 1301.407. PROCEDURES FOR VERIFYING CERTAIN
14 EXEMPTIONS. The board, in consultation with the State Board of
15 Education, may adopt rules as necessary to verify whether a person
16 qualifies for an exemption from the required renewal fee, as
17 described by Section 1301.401(c), or an exemption from required
18 continuing professional education, as described by Section
19 1301.404(g), including rules providing for obtaining and
20 evaluating written verification from the applicable school of the
21 person's provision of meaningful course instruction in a career and
22 technology education program described by Section 1301.3542.

23 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners shall adopt
25 rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act to
26 Chapter 1301, Occupations Code.

27 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.