

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures
For HB 3746

Compiled on: Sunday, April 2, 2023 3:27 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Kevin Howard

self - Municipal Health Director
Dallas, TX

Registered sanitarians inspect and monitor food service establishments, water sources, wastewater treatment facilities, and other public spaces to ensure that they meet health and safety regulations. We also educate the public about health and safety practices and respond to public health emergencies. Without registered sanitarians, there may be an increased risk of foodborne illness, waterborne disease, and other health hazards. In addition, code enforcement is necessary to ensure public safety, health, and welfare. Building codes and zoning ordinances are put in place to regulate the construction and use of buildings, properties, and public spaces. These regulations establish minimum standards for things like structural integrity, fire safety, sanitation, and accessibility. Code enforcement ensures that these standards are met by monitoring and inspecting properties and enforcing compliance with the codes and ordinances. Without code enforcement, buildings and properties may be unsafe or unsanitary, posing a risk to public health and safety. In addition to code enforcement officers, Registered sanitarians are needed to protect public health by ensuring that food, water, and other environmental factors are safe and sanitary. We are professionals who are trained in the science of public health and environmental health, and work to prevent the spread of disease and promote healthy living. Removing the need for these licenses will undoubtedly lower the bar and we must maintain the current standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our fellow Texans. I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you.

Arturo Villa

Self administrative assistant
Laredo, TX

I oppose this bill due to the importance of having a regulatory body for public health.

Jessica Rodriguez, Mrs.

self, City Planner

Pearland, TX

The proposed language in SB 829 prohibits a local government authority regulating cottage food production operation. This proposed Bill puts other health related food inspections at a disadvantage such as a restaurant or food truck. These businesses have to abide by local government rules adopted to adhere to food handling regulations. Why should certain types of food handling sold to the public be held to other nonexistent food safety standards? This Bill show preferential treatment to cottage food production because additional safety measures are not put in place for safe food handling. It punishes small business owners that spend more money on equipment, building construction, etc. to open a restaurant or café because they have to adhere to safe food handling regulations. Just because someone is working out of their home does not mean I should be subject to less oversight in food safety. The other issue with this Bill is the State making determinations of employment at a local level. If an employee is making such egregious errors and choosing not to abide by State law, it should be the local municipality who determines employment. This Bill is an overreach of the State and plays favorites to cottage food producers, leaving restaurant owners hanging out to dry.

Donna Bowyer, Code Enforcement Officer

City of Kerrville

Kerrville, TX

I, Donna Bowyer strongly oppose HB 3746 by Craig Goldman.

Rhonda Soliz-Silguero

self

Robstown, TX

strongly Oppose

jesus sanchez

city of laredo

laredo, TX

i am gains this bill leave us whit person not prepare on the streets

Terry Simmons

Self Code Enforcement

Eastland, TX

I AM A LICENSED CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. I DISAGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL. CE officers MUST continue to be trained and licensed by the state.

Grant Crowell, CEO

City Of Commerce

Commerce, TX

Code enforcement is a very important part of City's means of abating health and safety violations within the city. I am strongly against HB 3746

Matthew Barrera

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Strongly disagree

Tom Yarrington
City of Georgetown Code Compliance Unit
Jarrell, TX

I adamantly appose this bill. The licensing requirement is imperative to ensure Code Compliance/Enforcement Officers are trained, and remain up to date on current laws. The passage of this bill will not only harm the Code Compliance/Enforcement for cities, it will be harmful to the citizens of those jurisdictions.

Anthony Stubblefield
Self - Planning Director/Code Enforcement Officer
Mineral Wells, TX

I am against the repeal of registration and licensure of Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians. The licensing and training that comes with the registration is essential so that anyone hired to enforce codes and ordinances do not overstep their codes and infringe on the rights of citizens. No control is a recipe for disaster.

Robert Ortiz
Self, License Code Enforcement Officer
San Antonio, TX

To whom it may concern, I have been a Code Officer for over 30 Years (San Antonio, Austin, Fair Oaks Ranch) and to remove All Code Officers from Licensing will hurt the core values of enforcement of the health and safety to all citizens. Hiring a non-license person without experience could result in major suits throughout the state of Texas. I am a member of the Code Enforcement Association of Texas for over 15 years where we receive education and training to update our continuing education to maintain our license. I very much strongly oppose this bill! you will eliminate jobs throughout the state. Just remember we enforce these laws that Police will not want to handle.

Gabriel Arroyo, Director of Environmental Health
San Patricio County Department of Public Health
Sinton, TX

Being a registered code enforcement officer for the last 13 years I strongly oppose HB 3746 as I believe if this passes it would wreak havoc on the great work code enforcement officers have done up until today. We enforce laws that are to protect the public health that prevent diseases. We clean neighborhoods of eyesores, conduct community clean-ups, attend continuous trainings and are some of the frontline workers that deal with all types of situations. The great work we have done will definitely go to the wayside. Please reconsider this bill!

Tara Jones, Sr. Code Enforcement Officer
Self - occupation is Code Enforcement Officer
Buda, TX

I am currently a State of Texas registered Code Enforcement Officer and I strongly oppose the bill to eliminate the profession/registration of Code Enforcement Officers. I have been an officer for over 25 years and am proud to be regulated by the state. Code Enforcement Officers are a profession that inspects, investigates and regulates city and state codes and regulations to enhance and preserve the quality of life of our respective cities. We attend training to ensure we are properly administering codes and not infringing on citizens amendment rights. Without the licensing of Code Officers you will allow people to perform the work who are not properly trained which can be detrimental for cities and counties. By eliminating the registration you also are tampering with our livelihood; the work we are employed to perform. Without the regulation there will be no incentive for cities/counties to award our profession. Code Enforcement is work that is hardly noticed until it is no longer available. Imagine what the state of Texas would look like without code enforcement regulations. Trash, junked vehicles, tall weeds, dilapidated buildings, etc. would cause serious blight. Not only does Texas have code officers but nearly every state in the United States. We have regulations that hold us to a high moral standard; WE ARE A PROFESSION AND I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE ELIMINATION OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REGISTRATION. Thank you for your consideration.

Jaynes Charles, Code Enforcement

City of Balch Springs

Balch Springs, TX

Oppose

Jonathan Fanning

City of Justin

Justin, TX

The registration and regulatory provisions for code enforcement officers is important. With repeal , we are lowering the standard for who enforces the ordinances. Ordinances are laws that take good understanding and interpretation to enforce. When laws are adopted and expected to be upheld, we should always make sure the individuals who do so have displayed a level of knowledge to perform the task. It's more than go cut the grass or clean up the junk, its knowing ethics, community, and what the homeowners and business owners' rights are and an appropriate, legal way to gain compliance.

Thank you,

Wes Fanning,

Code Officer

Justin, TX

Melinda Hernandez, Code Enforcement Officer II

Self

Haltom City, TX

Repealing the licensing requirements for Code Enforcement Officers in Texas would be a grossly negligent decision. Whether Code Enforcement Officers are licensed or not, cities and counties across Texas are still going to need this role to be filled. To repeal the requirement for licensing would only take away the reinforcement that Code Officers need to be ethical above reproach, and it would take away a necessary incentive to keep their required integrity intact. You would not send Peace Officers out to do their job without education, testing, and licensing. To take away the requirements for Code Officers would be to send people out to perform a job without having equal education and training across the state. This would jeopardize the rights and safety of both the public at large and the Code Officers. People have constitutional rights and allowing Code Officers to be hired without state mandates on education, continuing education and licensing is reckless at best. Please consider that as a state that is so forward on constitutional rights and property rights, we do not want to go backwards by repealing the checks and balances that would help keep the constitutional and property rights where they belong - with the owner.

Angela Caraway

self/ Designated Representative - Health Inspector

Nederland, TX

I support this bill. As a designated representative myself, I see the need for installers and designated representatives who also hold site and soil evaluators license to be able to submit designs. Many times installers have to stop work once at the site because the design submitted will not work. Also, there doesn't seem to be enough Registered Sanitarians that also have site and soil evaluators license to perform the necessary work and it leaves the property owner waiting an unnecessary amount of time to get a design into the permitting authority for approval. There is no reason that this could not be done by a installer or designated representative who also holds a site and soil evaluators license. Designated representatives and installers understand just as much as the sanitarian about set back distances and the need to protect public health by not contaminating ground and drinking water.

In regards to code enforcement officers not needing to be registered in order to carry a club or instrument to deter animal bites, I am in support of this. Many city and county employees perform duties of enforcement that are not "registered" code enforcers. For instance, one of the many hats I wear, is to investigate nuisance complaints (high grass, litter, sewage, etc). In my 7 years as a health inspector, I have never carried an instrument to deter animal bites and have not needed one. I do feel this should be amended to read that there be some type of training to carry an instrument to deter animal bites.

ANGELA GLENN

Self - Registered Sanitarian OSSF Designer

Missouri City, TX

I am strongly opposed to repealing the registration for code enforcement officers and sanitarians. The roles performed by these licensed individuals are critical to the public health. Eliminating the registration would result in in undereducated individuals enforcing the Texas Health and Safety Codes to the detriment of all involved.

Maria Elena Abraham

Houston TX

Houston, TX

I oppose House Bill 3746 to the elimination of licensure of sanitarians and code enforcement officers.

Marco Deleon

City Of Rio Grande City

Rio Grande City, TX

I THINK IS IT VERY IMPORTANT FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SANITARIANS TO BE LICENSED AND REGISTERED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND FOR A CITIZEN TO KNOW THE OFFICER IS TRAINED PROPERLY AND HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE TASK HE OR SHE HAS BEEN TRAINED TO DO.

Janet Greenwood, RS

Texas Environmental Health Association

Houston, TX

I am shocked to hear that any representative would even consider doing away with our licensure. I am 83 years old and spent 40 years working as a registered sanitarian and am presently retired. I worked hard to get my license. 'When I began my long career, I had to have a 4 year college degree and so many hours in the sciences. After that I had to take a State exam and pass it and then spend 1 year as a Sanitarian in Training. Why in the world would anyone in our State Legislature want to remove the requirements for a person to be licensed to do their job. Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers do very important work in the environmental field and should be trained and licensed to do this.

Gerardo Ruiz

Self/Registered Sanitarian and Code Enforcement

Baytown, TX

I believe the repeal of the registration would be harmful to the safety of the general public. The RS and Code Officer registrations provide a test of applicable knowledge required to perform competent and professional inspections. Without the registration, anyone, including individuals with no food safety knowledge or experience, could perform the food safety inspections.

Rebecca Maxey

Self, Registered Sanitarian

Chilton, TX

I strongly oppose the delicensing of Registered Sanitarians in the State of Texas.

Anabell Maldonado, Health Official

TEHA

Universal City, TX

I oppose Bill 3746. Eliminating the licensure of Sanitarians sends the message that public health and safety is not important. Our profession does matter. The public does rely on the results of our inspections. The Food Code will not be of any worth if it is not enforced by an authorized official who represents public safety over food establishment's profitability. Likewise, Code Enforcement is more than issuing citations. It does require knowledge and skill to engage citizens to comply. For the sake of public order, Code Enforces must be skilled in human relations and contributes to the well-being of neighborhoods.

Clifton Griiffin

Self/ Regulatory Compliance Manager (Health Inspections and Code Enforcement)

Mansfield, TX

I am against repealing the licensing and registration of Code Enforcement Officers and Registered Sanitarians.

Kacey Roman, Director of Building & Code/Building Official

City of Freeport, Texas

Freeport, TX

Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for Oil Spills, Illegal Dumping, Sewer Overflows, Foodborne Illnesses, Restaurant Complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive essential education to be able to help enforce Civil Laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen of the State of Texas.

Kelli Olfers, Director of Health

City of Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg, TX

Registered sanitarians are public health professionals qualified by specific education, specialized training, and field experience to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public from adverse environmental determinants. The current licensure process ensures these mandatory credentials are met. If this bill were to repeal the registration of these professions, it what adversely decline the protection of the general public by allowing unqualified applicants for these important and necessary positions that ensure public safety.

Terri Auger

City of Abilene

Abilene, TX

By repealing licensing requirements/registration, how do you know if someone is qualified for the position of enforcement and education to the public about public health concerns? What do uneducated people know about science and public health? Knowledge of these subjects take training and study. Inspecting and educating public establishments is not just a checklist. To abate public health hazards, knowledge of the cause of hazards is required. Without education, you are moving public health back decades if not centuries.

Kyle DeHart

Self, Registered Sanitarian and owner of Environmental Concepts, LLC

Wimberley, TX

I'm a bit taken back by the proposal to eliminate the licensure of Sanitarians. Who in the world is going to be educated and licensed in the Sanitary Sciences to ensure the health and safety of people. Sanitarians do everything from air quality to wastewater system designing. They are also an important link in food safety/inspection of food establishments and day care/foster care establishments. I know of no other profession that is so paramount to the health and safety of the public than Registered Professional Sanitarians, To eliminate the licensure would be a travesty to public safety.

Donna Bowyer, Code Enforcement Officer

City of Kerrville

Kerrville, TX

I Donna Bowyer am opposed to HB 3746 by Rep. Craig Goldman.

Sabrina Graves, Code Compliance Manager
Self/Code Compliance Manager
Longview, TX

I opposed to this bill. The officer ensures that businesses and people are in compliance with public health, safety, public works, consumer protection, business activities, building standards, municipal affairs, and more. In short, code enforcement protects the community by regulating entities that are breaking laws and city ordinances. Its vital they receive the proper training.

Catherine Brogdon, Registered Sanitarian
Texas Environmental Health Association/Self
Bonham, TX

Good morning. I am writing in response to the proposed HB 3746. Registered Sanitarians are a vital component to overall public health. Many hours of science are taken during college to have a complete understanding of diseases, how to prevent them, and the best way to educate the public. These diseases include foodborne illnesses of which Registered Sanitarians safeguard. Since the inception of this educated group, foodborne illnesses have declined. However, due to the import and export of foods, unsafe food handling practices, and unsafe sanitation practices, foodborne illnesses still exist. They will always exist. It is the job of the RS to teach, educate and protect our food supply. This is accomplished by a complete understanding of the diseases (Conditions in which they thrive, how long it takes them to multiply to unsafe levels, how overall health of the food worker plays a role in protecting food, steps for prevention, how to differentiate between diseases which exhibit similar symptoms, etc.). The RS exam is comprehensive overview of the job and college science is the avenue to obtain the certification and understanding. If Texas decides to eliminate this requirement, then public health should not be charged to conduct disease reporting for foodborne illness, recalls for FDA, USDA, etc. It may appear that anyone can do the job but, with an education, there is a complete in-depth understanding of foodborne illness and food safety overall. Please take a look at the knowledge it takes to become a Registered Sanitarian, look at the test, etc. before making a decision. Thank you for your time.

Daniel Keen
Brazoria County
Brazoria, TX

I OPPOSE this bill!

Grady Bergquist, RS
Texas Environmental Health Association
Lubbock, TX

The repeal of the code enforcement and sanitarian license would be detrimental to the citizens of Texas. Sanitarians are on the front line of food safety and public health. We are protecting millions of Texans through education and enforcement of local, state, and federal regulations. The training and education required to do our jobs and obtain our license is necessary to ensure we have an adequate understanding of the potential hazards seen throughout our profession. Repeal of the sanitarian registration would open the door to increased foodborne illness outbreak, increased waterborne illness outbreak, and a large financial impact to the economy.

Repeal of the sanitarian and code enforcement registrations should not be considered due to the impact it could cause our fellow Texans.

Thomas Vyles

Self

Plano, TX

Sanitarians and Code Enforcement officials provide vital services to the citizens of the State of Texas. A credential shows the individual providing these services has the knowledge and education necessary to do this job at a higher level than those without a credential. Sanitarians are the ones who protect the food we eat, the water we drink and play in. They provide vector control services and education. Eliminating this credential runs the risk of returning to the days of unqualified and untrained individuals providing sub-par inspections and education to food handlers and swimming pool maintenance personnel. Removing the ability for sanitarians to do septic design will negatively affect the septic industry by taking away a significant number of individuals who do design work in many counties. This will effectively cut off a source of income for many sanitarians who do this work as either primary or secondary income.

DAVID MALLETTE, Mr.

Self - retired Sanitarian # 2300

Cisco, TX

Dear Honorable Committee

My career was in education of public in health matters. To educate one must be educated first.

The registration as a Sanitarian insures that the people we serve have a better education and thus higher health standards due to our ability to educate.

It is in my humble opinion that if I were not educated and mentored by Sanitarians my service to the public would be sub par.

During my career, my team of Sanitarians have investigated food borne illness in coordination with the State of Texas and the Center for Disease Control to solve a food born outbreak in eight states.

During my career my team have investigated childhood drowning and implemented corrective actions that no child is in danger while have fun swimming.

These accomplishment are due to being educated as a registered Sanitarian.

I would humble ask that Sanitarian registration continue for health and safety of the public that we all serve.

Our children and grandchildren thank you for your public health service.

Sincerely David Malette. R.S. # 2300

Kerbie Holmes

self-REHS/RS

Lufkin, TX

The repealing of licensing for Sanitarians would negatively impact public health. Sanitarians are specifically trained and educated to recognize public health hazards. Removal of licensing of Sanitarians would open the field to possibly unqualified individuals being placed in positions that require specialized experience and training, leading to inconsistent and inadequate response to public health emergencies, outbreaks, and compliance issues.

Danielle Fishbeck

Self

Freeport, TX

I opposed this proposed bill.

Samantha Pineda

Texas environmental health association

Houston, TX

Strongly oppose bill. Regulatory officers go through training and certifications to test acquired knowledge and implement to jurisdiction. If regulators do not have licenses, with what authority/knowledge can we provide to those we regulate.

Jodie Vice
Self
Brazoria, TX

The removal of this license can take away the livelihood of some that hold such licenses.

Johnathan Brooks
Self Registered Sanitarian
New Braunfels, TX

My name is Johnathan Brooks and I am a Registered Sanitarian who specializes in On-Site Sewage Facility Design. I have worked as a County Designated Representative for four years prior to my current position. Repealing the registration of Sanitarians and Code Enforcement negatively effects our industry in the following ways:

1. It allows for Felons and other criminals access to certain places such as schools and other areas while doing Routine Food Inspections.
2. Discontinuing Registration of Sanitarians also hurts the On-Site Sewage Facility Industry. A Majority of OSSF Designs are done by Sanitarians and not Professional Engineers. Repealing the Sanitarian registration means a shortage of qualified individuals to design OSSF systems. At a time of labor shortages and bad economy this will add another layer of cost and shortage to homeowners trying to replace or install their septic systems for their homes.

Kim Casey, Executive Director
Keep Longview Beautiful
Longview, TX

I strongly oppose this repeal/elimination. Code Officers and Sanitarians are desperately needed and need to be trained to keep our cities clean and safe for the public.

Kacey Roman, President
Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA)
Lake Jackson, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

Katherine Smith
Katherine Smith - Health Inspector CEO
ANGLETON, TX

I oppose this bill.

Terry Barber
Self
Wills Point, TX

BY repealing chapter 1952 of the Texas Occupation Code, HB3746 will lead to an increase in food-borne illnesses and foodborne illness related deaths in the State of Texas. By holding a State of Texas Registered Professional Sanitarian Certification a person has been verified by the State of Texas to possess the required basic knowledge to protect public health in the areas of: Vector Management; Health Administration and Regulations; Industry and Institutional Hygiene; Waste; Basic and Natural Sciences; Water; Epidemiology; Food and Food Systems; Emergency Response; and Facility Inspections. Deleting the Registered Professional Sanitarian certification would be just as devastating and have the same effect as deleting the State Requirements for other Public Health Professionals such as Doctors, Nurses, and Radiologists. Imagine that you have a child in day care. Now imagine that the daycare owner does not know, or because of money does not care, that the refrigerator used to store milk is only keeping the milk at 60°F. Now picture that the your baby is being feed with the milk that has been stored in the non properly working refrigerator above the minimum food safety temperature for the last 8 hours. Now fast forward 3 days into the future and you have noticed that your baby has not been eating well and seems to be having trouble breathing so you take the baby to the ER. After hours of waiting in the ER, the ER doctor comes out and tells you your baby has tested positive for Listeriosis a food borne illness associated with food that has been stored under inadequate refrigeration and the prognosis is not good for the baby to live. After the tragedy is over it is discovered that the refrigerator used to store milk at the day care was documented as keeping milk at 60°F by the local health inspector but because they had no formal training and no state verification of proper training did not know that storing milk at 60°F was dangerous and could lead to illness and death, and even though they never intended to harm your baby, the lack of proper training and proper state oversight is the cause of this tragic death. It is because of programs like the Registered Professional Sanitarian program we as residents of the State of Texas can rest assured that the men and women that are practicing public health as Sanitarian's are properly trained as public health professional. I urge you to please to vote against this potentially devastating and life threatening bill.

JOSLINE HOWARD
SELF CODE OFFICER
LONGVIEW, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

Herbert Harker, RS
self
ROCKWALL, TX

I have been a Sanitarian since 1971 and have used my license during all this time. I currently use my RS to design septic systems for builders, homeowners and commercial operations. To do designs you must be either an engineer or a Sanitarian. 95% of all designers that I am aware of are Sanitarians. If this is passed, then all those individuals will no longer be able to design septic and aerobic systems and I will be completely out of the ability to do that type of work. I have my own business doing design work and that is my only income. I have done this work since I retired from the City of Dallas in 2000 as the Assistant Director of Environmental and Public Health. I started my own business that year and have utilized my Sanitarian license to conduct the design work ever since. By eliminating the Sanitarian license, you will completely eliminate my income. There is absolutely no reason to eliminate the Sanitarian license.

Andrea Ford, City Secretary
City of Oyster Creek
Oyster Creek, TX

I work in a small community and thankfully, we do have code enforcement officer. He is responsible for keeping the city looking nice by making sure the codes that our Government put forth are abided by. For example, keeping yards mowed, keeping junk vehicles out and enforcing those type of laws. He also responsible for people's safety by ensuring that building codes are met and works closely with a local Fire Marshall to prevent fires by making slumlords fix their electricity problems. If we did not have him and we had to wait on the State for help, I am afraid that these things would spiral out of control by not being able to address these very examples. The State would not be able to address these things, they do not have enough resources. His service is a necessary part of running a city. If we do not have a resource to make sure our laws are being followed, why pass them in the first place? We have police officers to ensure traffic laws, why would we not have someone to enforce our city ordinances? Again, I do not believe that the State would be able to handle the workload put on them by this bill. I am completely opposed. Thank you for listening.

Robin Voss, Mrs.
Self - Health Inspector
Austin, TX

As far as the Sanitarian license is concerned: I would not be opposed to removing the science requirement of the RS as I believe it is a barrier into the profession, but I do believe that the training requirements are extremely important. Both a health inspector and a code enforcement officer hold a lot of power over the people they inspect and can easily overreach or do the wrong thing. People are afraid of them/us and very often will not complain because they are afraid of retaliation. I have the power to walk into a food establishment and require them to throw out all the food in their cooler or fail them and make them put an F on the window or the score could be broadcast on the local news. I can refuse to pass a plan review or a pre-opening inspection and hold up a build out or new business opening. A health inspector can ruin a person's business or at least cost them a lot of money. Removing the license and letting untrained people hold a badge will not be a positive change. Even with the license, it is easy to avoid learning the codes. The license requires CEU hours and the holder to pass a test and be trained. I have been a health inspector for 13 years and have been in the restaurant industry for 25 years. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. 512-771-5636

Jessica Stell
Brazoria County Environmental Health Department
Angleton, TX

Opposition to limiting the scope of work for RS/Code Enforcement

Nathan Pullin
City of Ennis Health Department
Ennis, TX

The licensure of code enforcement officers in Texas is essential for ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. Code enforcement officers play a critical role in enforcing building codes, zoning laws, health and sanitation regulations, and other local ordinances that protect public health and safety. Without proper training and licensure, code enforcement officers may lack the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their duties, leading to potential hazards and dangers for the community.

The licensing process ensures that code enforcement officers have met the necessary educational and training requirements, have passed an examination demonstrating their knowledge of the relevant laws and regulations, and are held accountable for their actions through a system of ethical standards and disciplinary measures. A licensed and trained code enforcement officer is better equipped to identify potential violations, enforce regulations, and educate property owners on proper compliance.

Additionally, a licensed code enforcement officer in Texas can offer numerous benefits to both the community and property owners. By promoting compliance with local ordinances and regulations, code enforcement officers help to maintain property values, enhance the quality of life in communities, and ensure that neighborhoods remain safe and desirable places to live. Property owners who work with licensed code enforcement officers can benefit from increased knowledge of regulations and compliance requirements, as well as access to resources and guidance on how to maintain their properties in a safe and legal manner.

In summary, the licensure of code enforcement officers in Texas is a crucial component of ensuring public safety and maintaining community standards. The benefits of being a licensed and trained code enforcement officer are numerous, including increased knowledge and skills, accountability, and the ability to promote compliance and maintain property values. Therefore, it is important to consider the potential consequences of repealing laws relating to licensure of code enforcement officers, as it may compromise the safety and well-being of the community.

Felipe Elizondo Jr., Code enforcement
Self
Laredo, TX

I vote against this bill... we need sanitarians and code officer with training

Rafael 'Ralph' Cisneros, Jr., R.S. #2475
Self
Laredo, TX

I am against the repeal of licensing for Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians. Specially Sanitarian's, they are in very short supply and the Licensing assures that these Environmental Law Enforces maintain up-to-date knowledge of Public Health Law impacting the local communities. Sanitarian do much of the work Professional Engineers do not want to do and are not capable of doing, like Septic System Designs, Waste Water Disposal Systems, Solid Waste Practices, Public Health Sanitation Enforcement and many more...Please do not get rid of these licenses, these are the folks that tackle the illegal dumps, illegal sewage dumps in Texas, they are the folks that tackle the difficult disease outbreaks and provide a great level of protection to the public's health.

Brandon Couch, R.S.
Self Registered Sanitarian
Georgetown, TX

This bill poses a serious threat to public health and safety. Sanitarians while a generalist type license are the a major buttress in the enforcement and compliance with many health and safety activities in the state including but not limited to:

Inspections, design, etc. for health and safety at restaurants and food manufacturing facilities.
Review, design and inspections for on-site sewage facilities.
Vector control inspections and enforcement (insects, vermin, etc.)
Dairy inspections for health and safety
Municipal landfill safety and health inspections
Daycare, assisted living, and nursing home inspections
Epidemiology and Pandemic investigations
Health and safety inspections for public pools and water parks

LYNN BRANNAN
SELF-LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNER AND FORMER CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
LAKE JACKSON, TX

I believe it would be a great disservice to all communities, regardless the size, to remove Code Enforcement and Sanitarians Licenses. These professions both keep communities safer and provide a greater chance of economic development and growth. Without proper oversight of local eateries, amongst other facilities inspected by local sanitarians would place the public in a greater health danger. These local eateries would have more room to maneuver around the state code as the State Sanitarians are already heavily loaded with all county inspections. Having completed many health inspections at our local eateries and day cares has proven to me the need of these inspections. Removing local sanitarians will put not only those that seek food at the local eateries but those of children at the local day cares. That to me is unacceptable and is shocking that it is even being considered. As far as local Code Enforcement Officers, they to prove to be essential to the local economic structure. They keep properties properly maintained and controlled by not allowing massive growth and collection of clutter to name just a few from growing and gathering. Both of these situations cause multiple insect and rodent infestation which then progress throughout the community. Let alone the safety issue this would cause this also would lower the economic potential and growth for the community as property values and population would decrease. If you are trying to reduce local governments opportunities for growth and public well being then eliminating these two licenses would do just that. I strongly hope you reconsidered this outrageous excuse of a bill and vote AGAINST this bill.

Dave McGhee
Self - OSSF designer
Austin, TX

Sanitarians play an important role in the development of Texas. We insure that all natural resources and public health are protected throughout the state. It would be detrimental to Texas to do away with the sanitarian licensing.

James Saccomanno
Self
Freeport, TX

I think this bill is dangerous and I am quite appalled that the State of Texas would even consider something like this. Code enforcement people need to be trained and licensed in order to protect the citizens. Code enforcement officers are the last line of defense for the citizens. Are plumbers and electricians next on the list? Professional engineers ? Please do not make this stupid mistake!
James Saccomanno - retired Chemical Engineer

Marcia Fouts
City of Stafford
SugarLand, TX

By repealing registration you are removing any policing powers that code enforcement officers and sanitarians have. Both of these jobs are extremely important to public safety and you are trying to remove those safety nets.

Stuart Walker, Code Administration Director
City of Lubbock
Lubbock, TX

I oppose this bill. Licensure to be a Registered Code Enforcement Officer or a Registered Sanitarian provides a professional standard to the position that is counted on by our citizens, business owners, municipalities, and legal proceedings. Doing away with these licenses would erase the training and knowledge basis that these professions rely on, allowing unqualified individuals to perform the job duties.

Ronee Huerta
Self
Georgetown, TX

I am a licensed Code Enforcement Officer in the State of Texas and believe that this should not pass. There is a lot that goes into operating as a Code Enforcement Officer, and these regulations ensure that not only are state and local level laws adhered to properly, but it also ensures the rights of citizen's are protected. Without proper schooling, licensing, and regulations, you will be putting all of these things in jeopardy. I am sure that there are regulations that could be adjusted but I do not believe that abolishing them all together is the right answer.

John Malvern, Mr.
John Malvern- Registered Sanitarian
Desoto, TX

I oppose HB 3746. I am a Registered Sanitarian with the State of Texas and employed by the City of DeSoto Tx. I believe that all Code Officers and Sanitarians should be required to be registered with the State of Texas. I also believe that it should be mandatory that Sanitarians and Code Officers be required to obtain the standard 24 CEUs every 2 years.

Dawna Berry
Texas Environmental Health Association
Frankston, TX

The knowledge and expertise provided by Sanitarians is imperative to protecting the public from illness and/or injury. Sanitarians also support owners and operators in becoming successful especially if the food industry. Safe food helps promote successful businesses which supports the economy.

CINDY BERGEN
SELF
ANGLETON, TX

I oppose this bill.

DANIELLE DONNELLY-KERLIN

Self- OSSF Registered Sanitarian & OSSF Designer

Rockdale, TX

As a former Designated Representative for Hays County and Milam County, and now as a person in the private sector, I feel that this is not a well thought out plan. As a former reviewer, and inspector, to remove Sanitarians from this field is not a good idea. I receive phone calls daily (as a sanitarian), from installers asking me to interpret the TCEQ rules for them because they cannot decipher the size that a system should be based off of the information they are given and the state rules. Believing that these installers should be able to design the systems that they are installing, especially when dealing with secondary treatment, is setting the OSSF industry up for law suits, failing systems, and definitely not having environmental nor public health at the forefront, which is what sanitarians do have. This is also going to cause even further backload for our county reviewers, because there are many rules that must be followed when completing designs; the design must be to scale, all drainfields must be laid on contour in the field and on the designs, all calculations must be concise and clear, the list is quite long, and I (as a former reviewer) have seen many installer designs (because they are already allowed to complete their own designs for any conventional system), and this will cause an unwarranted backload for county design reviewers. Not only that, but removing my Sanitarian license as a whole, that I worked so hard for, please explain to me how that will ever ring fair.....I went to a University, attained my ample science hours, and graduated, then I worked for a county, did more than ample training, took my exam, and passed it. I have put in countless hours of continuing education to uphold that license for many years, and paid the renewal fees. With all of that said, how can we simply remove a license because someone no longer thinks it is necessary? As a Sanitarian, and holding a Master's of Public Health from A&M, I am adamantly against this, and am quite sure that this would take the OSSF industry 10 steps backwards, when we should be currently striving to grow this industry. People are moving to Texas by the droves, and our water state is already at risk just due to population, without proper septic designs and installations, you are toying with our water supply even more, toying with contamination on top of the fact that we are having water shortages. As a Sanitarian, I do not just look at that license as a means for me to gain an income, I look at that license as a means to protect our environment for my children, grandchildren, and many generations to come. Removing Sanitarians will simply be an extreme loss rather than any type of gain. Please read this and understand that it will not only affect us who have worked hard to attain our licenses, but the industry as a whole. Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Thank you,

Danielle Donnelly-Kerlin, MSPH, RS #4526, Designated Representative #OS0029590

Sabrina Vidaurri

Self

Fort Worth, TX

This should not happen. Both of the licenses ensure each inspector takes educational training on their specific job duties. I want people educated to protect my food supply and property; not someone brother uncle etc who will only be one sided. I cannot believe this actually made a hearing.

Betty Glasco

Self

Dallas, TX

If the Code Enforcement rules and regulations are not broken why are you trying to fix it ??? People working in Code need the License to regulate and inform the public of health violations, enforce city ordinances and city codes. The Police will not and do not have the time to enforce city codes. The cities will suffer without Code Enforcement and Compliance... The people who are trying to delete Code Licence& Compliance ask them who would enforce the city codes & ordinances ???

Danielle Bryan, Code Enforcement Officer

self

Manvel, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

This would be a terrible mistake!!! Do not put our Texans citizens at risk!!!

Micheal Dumas, Assistant Chief/Assistant Fire Marshal

Self

Denton, TX

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Denise Turner

Self / Health Inspector, Registered Sanitarian, Code Enforcement Officer and Designated Representative

Freeport, TX

All of these groups regulate Public and Environmental Health and Safety through investigations, enforcement and education of the public. There is a significant amount of educational experience and knowledge required to understand and enforce environmental, retail food establishment and general public nuisances that local peace officers are unable or unwilling to address. Sanitarians are also able to design septic systems and keep costs down from hiring engineers to complete basic duties. Over 3/4 of the septic designs in our county are completed by Registered Sanitarians who would lose their livelihood and ability with the elimination of these categories. Designated Representatives are unable to operate inside the counties where they are working and are not specifically trained in the designing and proper operation of On-site septic systems. Installers determining those requirements would allow for cut corners and improper installation if there was no mechanism for enforcement.

Ronald Duval, Retired Building Inspector

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

I am a retired Building Inspector. I also did some code indie cement for the city of Lake Jackson. In my opinion the code enforcement and Health that a city has, is the first line of offense to protect citizens of that city. You cannot remove that protection . You cannot protect citizens from a desk, or expect a TDLR Inspector to cover a county and be sufficient. We cannot expect our police departments to do this job. A lot of departments don't have the funding for more officers. Which could reflect response times.

Monty McGuffin, Sanitarian

MK Inspection Registered Sanitarian

Stockdale, TX

HB 3746 has the potential to be extremely detrimental to the public health and safety to the fine citizens of Texas. The work done by Registered Sanitarians is vital to the health and well-being of our state. A sanitarian does the none-flashy dirty work that no one wants to do. The work performed keeps the population safe from food born illness, vector borne disease and safe from water born illness at your favorite public pool. The removal of these educated and trained persons would put us back in the early 1900's from a public health standpoint. Monty

Paul Stone
Self/Management
Friendswood, TX

Please do not eliminate code enforcement and sanitarian licensing. We need licensed experts in these fields to protect the welfare of all citizens.

Fernando Aguirre, Registered Sanitarians
Septic Systems Express
San Antonio, TX

There are some 1200 Registered Sanitarians throughout the state.
I am the NUMBER ONE of them, with license # 994 that was issued on 30 Oct 1968.
RS's do a variety of types of work including health inspections on restaurants, health and sanitation work of all types and, as in my case, SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGNING.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE IS VERY IMPORTANT PART OF KEEPING TEXAS HEALTHY!
Frank Aguirre, 210.275.7866

Kathryn Johnson
Self
Bedford, TX

As a practicing sanitarian and code enforcement officer I feel this bill is counter productive to ensuring proper training and accountability for the professions. In essence we are being told that our degrees, hours of training and experience don't matter. I ask the house to NOT support this bill which would make my profession less stable and offer less oversight. Do not let my training and expertise work be in vain.

Damien Reese, Code Officer
City of Longview
Longview, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

LEON BOYD
SELF CODE ENFORCEMENT
LONGVIEW, TX

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Dawn Dorsey
Montgomery County
Conroe, TX

These licenses should not repealed. They are in place to insure public servants are educated about laws to protect public health and safety.

Traci Dyck
City of Allen TX Code Compliance Division
Denison, TX

It is critical that Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians be licensed with the state since we are dealing with the health and safety of the public and residents of the State of Texas. We are required to have extensive knowledge and training in order to best keep the public safe and informed and prevent outbreaks of foodborne illness, rodents, illegal dumping, hazardous vegetation and other code violations. By removing the license requirement, the state is putting the citizens of Texas at risk by allowing unlicensed officers and sanitarians who have not obtained the education requirements put forth by the State of Texas and do not have a full grasp of what constitutes a violation and/or hazard to the general public. Removing the license requirement would be equivalent to putting untrained police officers on the streets and expecting the same result as a licensed police officer.

Robert Childress
Childress Septic & Designs, LLC
Highland Haven, TX

I am not sure who would have proposed the removal of a registered professional sanitarian. Texas implemented the license to protect the public health and safety. Registered sanitarians govern the majority of our health, living, and waste management. They inspect our restaurants, retirement centers, environmental health, and on-site sewage facilities. These are just to name a few. This would clearly be a threat to the public health and safety.

Terrance Root
City of Seguin/Health Inspector.
Seguin, TX

I believe that this bill should not go through due to the impact this will have on enforcement of regulations of the State of Texas and cities within Texas. Our citizens look to us to help them with their problems. The reason they have trust in our abilities is that we have been trained and certified by the State of Texas to have shown a degree of knowledge about the laws of the State of Texas. If you take away this certification then you take away the trust that our citizens will have in us and our ability to properly do our job. The authority that these occupations have will also be undermined by this bill.

Charles Just
City of Seguin, Code Compliance Officer
Seguin, TX

By passing this bill, It would nullify code officer credentials throughout the State of Texas. Code officers needs the proper training to do their jobs for their municipalities.

ANDREW NICHOLS
Self / Code Enforcement Officer.
Odessa, TX

The removal of training and licensing for Code Enforcement Officers & Sanitarians has got to be a mistake when one consider the rest of the Bill has nothing to do with Code Enforcement or Sanitarians. Either way this a bad idea due to the very nature of the work Code Enforcement & Sanitarians do. Examples for Code Enforcement Officers, include issuing of Citations and/or the need to appear in court. These are things an untrained or unlicensed person should not do. The reason for the licensing in the first place was random people being assigned by the municipality and not being trained in what was a violation and what wasn't. Sure the Police department could do this job but considering the lack of Police Officers nationwide. This sounds like one person's personal issues and not a state wide issues. I would suggest the motives of the sponsor be researched. The whole first of part of the Bill is ill conceived and needs to be rewritten.

Leonardo Mendez, Code Enforcement Officer
CEAT
GARLAND, TX

The license for code enforcement officer and sanitarian cannot be abolished.

Victoria Paredes
Self /Sanitarian I
San Antonio, TX

Being able to obtain a license as a sanitarian is crucial because it shows that a qualified professional is able to practice and educate the public properly with the knowledge required.

Elroy Brooks, Manager
Self - City of Longview
Longview, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746

Steve Upton
Clute Fire Marshal's Office
Clute, TX

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Maricela Zamarripa, Sanitarian III
Self
Uvalde, TX

Do NOT pass this. This would endanger the public. A Registered Sanitarian does college science course that would protect public health.

Russell Cain
self/sanitarian
Bastrop, TX

I am against this bill as it would present a real threat to the health and safety to the residents of this state. Code Enforcement officers and Sanitarians provide a wealth of knowledge to the residents of this state.

Andrea West, R.S.
City of Fort Worth
FORT WORTH, TX

I strongly oppose repealing of the registration and other regulatory provisions applicable to code enforcement officers and sanitarians. Registered sanitarians are public health professionals and have specialized skills to be able to do the work that we do. This is demonstrated by assessing that knowledge and ensuring that we have the basic tools and skills to be able to perform. Taking that away discredits our profession puts the safety, health, and general welfare of Texans at an unnecessary risk by removing the requirement to have this basic knowledge and skillset in the people performing the job.

Megan Johnson, SANITARIAN

TEHA

Lewisville, TX

I oppose this bill in its entirety.

Environmental health professionals prevent illness, injury, and death by providing local public health services to our communities. Texas law provides a registration program for sanitarians and code enforcement officers that ensures that individuals protecting our food supply, water systems, and other public systems demonstrate competency and receive continuing education in their fields.

HB 3746 would repeal laws relating to sanitarian and code enforcement officers, needlessly jeopardizing public health and upending our local public health workforce.

The Sunset Commission studied this issue in 2015, and sanitarians and code enforcement officers were moved from DSHS to TDLR, which has worked well.

Individuals who receive the private REHS/RS credential receive reciprocity in Texas and do not have to take the Texas licensing exam, but many Texas sanitarians are registered on the basis of the cheaper Texas-only RS credential.

The current system works well, but if HB 3746 were to pass, hundreds of registered sanitarians with years of experience would lose their status as a registered sanitarian and their jobs. Many human resource departments require the Texas credential, not the National credential to maintain employment. Switching to the National credential would take 4-6 years and is not an immediate solution.

HB 3746 is a solution in search of a problem! The current registration system has served public health well, and provides a pathway to professional registration for local public health staff and ensure cities, counties, and other public health entities can hire public health professionals with basic core competencies in environmental health.

Sandy Johnson

Public

Houston, TX

The specialized training required of licensed sanitarians, aside from graduation from an accredited college, impacts public health, food safety, restaurant and commercial kitchen construction and regulation and operation. Registered sanitarians must complete continuing education courses annually to continue their professional development and to remain abreast of trends involving pathogens impacting public health and safety, and new technology affecting food service equipment manufacturing. From a business owner's perspective, sanitarians often provide guidance and counsel regarding food safety in terms of equipment failure, inadequate food storage techniques, and refrigeration. Registered sanitarians are responsible for ensuring that food prepared for the public is safe for consumption. There are countless stories of sanitarians' findings during routine inspections: uninspected wild hog meat being butchered in a meat market, illegally harvested venison found in a restaurant kitchen, moldy dough being prepared as pizza for sale to the public, lack of hot water in commercial kitchens and many other examples too graphic for this public forum. In a time when so many enjoy dining out as a time for fellowship and relaxation, ensuring that our meal is safe is the primary concern for the professional, licensed sanitarian. These professionals uncover small problems before they become big problems. They can help business owners avoid litigation and frivolous complaints. Do you really want to worry about the safety of every meal you eat in a restaurant or fast food establishment? Can you feel safe consuming food prepared in a kitchen without refrigeration? Has that employee leaving the restroom washed his hands in hot, soapy water? Sanitarians are, many times, the unseen professionals standing between dangerous, sometimes deadly, food safety violations and the dining public. This bill is a bad idea for all of us. Vote NO to keep our food safe!

Jessica Thompson

Self - Code Enforcement Officer

Stratford, TX

I have been a licensed Code Enforcement Officer for the last 5 years. The initial instruction I received and the continuing education classes have been crucial for me to perform my job accurately. I am concerned that by forgoing the requirement for licensing will cause a negative impact on municipalities. This will create situations that an uneducated/trained person would be responsible for issuing citations and filing court cases. What kind of liability will a municipality be opening themselves up to by having an individual that has not had to prove their proficiency in this field?

Gerardo PIna
Code Enforcement Association of Texas (CEAT)
Laredo, TX

By repealing the registrations of Texas Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians would not benefit any city, town or counties. By having the license and being certified its a great benefit for all certified officers due to the trainings they receive before getting certified and afterwards. We (I'm a certified Code Officer as well) have to attend many trainings to keep our certification so if repealed that means any one with no experience will be able to hold the Code officer title. How would that benefit and employer? It wouldn't. CEAT has been providing trainings for the past 38 years and all Code officers and Sanitarians do benefit from all the trainings. The more trainings you attend the more knowledge the officer will have and will use it during their days on the job. By not having the certification it wouldn't be mandatory to attend any trainings. BY having the Code Enforcement or Sanitarian certification we HAVE to attend trainings through out the year and take a minimum amount of hours before getting the license renewed. Many have used this certifications to maintain a job and take pride on having it. I Gerardo Piña and the Code Enforcement Association of Texas are oppose of HB3746.

Ben Stobnicki, Mr.
Self / Health Inspector
Mount Pleasant, TX

Removing the Sanitarian and Code Enforcement credentials that provide crucial safety nets to public health creates a very dangerous environment for Texas Citizens. Imagine the consequence of allowing untrained individuals to fly airplanes or perform surgery. We have a safer public today because of the hard lessons learned without trained inspectors. It seems extremely reckless to return to a time in history where Texans had no trained inspectors to protect us from avoidable risk where folks might become ill or even worse. The goal or objective of this bill can be accomplished without removing trained Sanitarians and Code Officers. Consider the lasting impact on public health and safety for our citizens as you consider this bill. This Bill is a very Bad idea!

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Self / Health Inspector
Mount Pleasant, TX

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Malcolm Toran
Self/Truck Driver
Longview, TX

I don't support the Repeal of registration and other regulatory provisions applicable to code enforcement officers and sanitation.

Rodger Pacheco
Personal
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly opposed to this ACT relating to repeal of the registration of CODE Officers and Sanitarians. I have been a Code Officer/building Official for over 30 years. Without Code Officers and Sanitarians, the health and public safety of all our citizens would be in danger. Please think about this before presenting it to your colleagues.

Elvira Smailovic, RS

self

Wylie, TX

As a Senior Registered Sanitarian in a local municipality, I am against this bill. We, sanitarians, are HIGHLY educated (bachelor required, many have master's and doctoral degrees) and experienced in food safety and regional, state, and federal laws. We are the LAST line of consumer defense and food protection. If these requirements are removed, public safety will be significantly compromised, and consumer health will be in jeopardy.

Dickey Johnson, Retired

Self

Dallas, TX

The people who inspect restaurants and kitchens in private business and public buildings need to be properly educated tested and licensed by the state of Texas. It saves lives.

Juan Briones, Code Enforcement Officer

Self Code Enforcement Officer

Cedar Park, TX

Repealing the registration of Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians would erase credibility of those currently licensed individuals. By requiring education, training, and licensing for Code and Sanitarians it provides the building blocks and credibility for both parties to uphold and enforce codes and regulations that directly impact the health and welfare of the general public. As a licensed Code Enforcement Officer for over 12 years I have seen how unlicensed and untrained individuals negatively impact the workplace and community. Unlicensed individuals that lack training would make the city and themselves more susceptible to lawsuits and lack credibility in a court room. Please Representative Goldman reconsider your proposal so that individuals like myself who take great pride and hold a deep respect for our line of work can remain credible and proudly say we are licensed by the State of Texas. Thank you.

Gwen Meighan, Registered Sanitarian

TEHA & Self. I'm a Registered Sanitarian and septic designer

HUTTO, TX

If this bill is passed, you are:

1. restricting a persons right to earn a living doing a job they are trained for and highly qualified
2. You are denying your constituents to right to affordable septic design. Engineers are far more expensive than an RS
3. There are not enough engineers to meet the demand.

If property owners cannot afford a septic design, they will have illegal septic systems and they will place sewage on the ground. This will cause a lot of environmental problems that health departments cannot handle. Even more diseases will result from this condition.

It is very important to your voting public that this bill is NOT passed

Ephrem Tefade, Registered Professional Sanitarian

Dallas County

Forneyof a medidcal doctor, TX

I personally believe that a licensed professional Sanitarian is more responsible, accountable and fulfils the basic standards required for the profession . as to me sounds like, no need of a Medical doctor, a Nurse could fulfill all the jobs done by the doctor. if we are interested in quality accountability and standard licensed Sanitarian is strongly important..

Consuelo Castaneda, Ms
Self - Code Compliance Supervisor
El Paso, TX

I disagree with this. Code Enforcement and Sanitarians perform an important job in our community. They are on the front line looking out for the health safety and welfare of the citizens and taxpayers. Certifications and trainings are essential in their line of work. Changes to laws occur every year and enforcing those changes need to be done by people who are already familiar and certified to do the job. It is a danger to walk into an establishment to enforce a health violation with no credentials. It is a danger to inform a property owner of a safety and/or health violation with no credentials. Most of the time, we are asked "who are we to tell them what they can and cannot do". Citizens need to see that we are certified to do these kinds of jobs for the state of Texas. Documentations through the state need to be done to show that an "officially" trained person is registered through the State of Texas to enforce these codes/laws. Code Enforcement is needed and used everywhere. Accountability of registered officers and sanitarians need to be noted.

Terry Rodgers, RS
Self Registered Professional Sanitarian
Ennis, TX

Repealing these regulatory provisions makes about as much sense as defunding the Police.

Fernando Perches
City Of El Paso / Self
El Paso, TX

I as a Code Enforcement Officer in the City of El Paso know how it is to deal with the public and the license is a must which authorizes us to enforce and to make sure all proper education is provided because without proof how is it that we can be sure we are getting the proper education and training

Brad Bryant
Oyster Creek Police Department
Oyster Creek, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

Kevin Moore
Self / Registered Sanitarian
Liberty Hill, TX

Please do not eliminate the Sanitarian Program. The Sanitarian is a vital credential in the regulation of On-Site Sewage Facilities.

Jesus Rosales
City of El Paso Environmental--Vector
El Paso, TX

It is essential to have the state regulate the licenses for Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers. It is needed for the health and safety of the people of the state of Texas. If not some other entity needs to do it. The State is doing a great job.

Stacy Wright
Self. City Employee.
Rosanky, TX

I am a Registered Sanitarian and hold TCEQ OnSite Sewage Facilities (OSSF) licenses for Onsite Evaluator and Designated Representative. I am opposed to the proposed bill as it would make it more difficult for inspection and enforcement of OSSF (septic systems) in rural areas. As a Republican, I do not want to see the cost of an OSSF installation increasing and my taxes increasing in order to pay for the additional licenses and training required to hold the TCEQ OSSF licenses to inspect or install my OSSF. The bill would make it harder for residents to obtain cost effective services for the design and upgrade of OSSF's for their homes and small businesses. Registered Sanitarians design and inspect OSSF's in many rural areas. They also respond to complaints as many OSSF's are failing across the State of Texas. The bill will effectively drive up the cost for residents who need to install or upgrade an OSSF. It means more money for me as I hold all the necessary licenses. However, it will be a financial burden on residents and cities and counties who have to enforce OSSF's. The source of this bill is likely a special interest group trying to increase their profit margin and if Rep. Goldman actually comes out and admits who approached him with the bill, it will be very clear. The bill will make it much harder for cities, counties, and public health districts to acquire employees who have the required licenses and training. It will also increase the annual cost for training and certifications for these government entities and therefore the costs will be placed upon the taxpayers of Texas. Regarding the Code Enforcement changes, I would ask Rep. Goldman to spend a day with a code enforcement officer in part of Fort Worth. Walk the alleys with the many dogs at large. I bet he would appreciate having a bite stick and would also appreciate the training requirements of code enforcement officers.

Elida Mendoza, Ms.
Code Enforcement Association of Texas
San Benito, TX

Code Enforcement officers play a crucial role in daily community operations and quality of life for the municipality. Code Officers go through extensive training to be able to understand the rules and regulations that go along with providing due process for enforcement. Getting registered allows the officer the backup needed to be able to preserve a quality of life for the citizens of the community. The continuing education required ensures that officers are kept up to date with any changes to the profession and any updates on laws and ordinances. Our duties have a direct impact on property values and community image. We serve our communities by ensuring compliance and still maintain a good relationship with our citizens.

Mark Espinoza, Senior Vector Code Compliance Officer
Self - Senior Vector Code Compliance Officer
El Paso, TX

Good morning, my name is Mark Espinoza. I am a Vector Code Compliance Officer for the City of El Paso. I am also a member of CEAT. With the news about repealing licensure of sanitarians and code enforcement officers, I had to make my voice heard. In being a Code Compliance Officer, we are tasked with enforcing the city as well as State code in our community. When asked "who do you work for" I always answer "for the City of El Paso" there have been instances where I was told you are just a city employee. My come back is "well I am certified by the state of Texas." You see everyone is trying to get degrees, certifications, and licenses to show what they have accomplished. This here shows that I have the knowledge and know how at a state level. I attended a 40-hour class and passed an exam to prove to the state of Texas that I was able to understand and retain this information. To keep this certification, I attend CEU courses for continuing education and updates to current codes. With this certification, I am able to go to any city in this state and prove I have this knowledge. Work for any city in which is in the state of Tx and prove that I do know the job and have the documents to prove it. This certification puts us on another level. I also have my TDA licenses and CPO license (Certified Pool and Spa Operator). Which says the same that our Code Enforcement license does. If this is taken away, this shows me that the state of Texas does not want to acknowledge our positions. We are the ones who are on the front lines, the boots on the ground. We are keeping our city's, Our State safe. We are keeping our state clean and helping the states citizens stay healthy. After all, we are trying to help take care of our citizens, without these certs, this is saying that the great state of Texas has no knowledge or wants no knowledge of us.

Brandon Bigos, Fire Plans Examiner
City of Longview
Longview, TX
Rep. Craig Goldman,

The regulations and licensing for code enforcement officers has benefited Code Enforcement Officers as a profession and the citizens of the communities across the state for which they serve. It would be a travesty to remove such regulations and licensing for these things help insure that code enforcement officers have requirements necessary to continue to build a profession just like police officers and firefighters. I would highly recommend that code enforcement officers have there own commission just like TECOLE and TCFP.

Lois Balka
CEAT
Beaumont, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill

AMY SMITHART, SENIOR CODE OFFICER
city of frisco
frisco, TX

THIS BILL DOES NOT NEED TO BE APPROVED. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE DAILY TO PROTECT CITIZENS PROPERTY AND CONTINUE TO HELP WITH RISING PROPERTY VALUES.

Ruben Garcia
City of Iowa Colony
Iowa Colony, TX

Registered Code Enforcement Officers are needed for City operation to function. Without Registered Code Enforcment Officer how can a city enforce city ordinances and state laws.

Jackie Davis
City of Lewisville
Corinth, TX

The City of Lewisville strongly opposes this bill. License for Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians is essential to perform their jobs and to enforce State codes and Local codes correctively.

William Murphy, Code Inspector
City of Wallis
Wallis, TX

Must not repeal.

Susan Rushing
City of Vidor
Orange, TX

Code Enforcement officer and sanitarians need to remain licensed. Requiring citizens to abide by the rules and codes of the state and municipalities takes someone that knows those requirements and can enforce them. Not being licensed holds no value when requiring citizens to follow rules. And there is no recourse for not following the rules. We can't write citations if we aren't licensed.

Sheree Brady
City of Pilot Point, Tx
PILOT POINT, TX

I want to express a strong opposition to this plan. Code Officers are out there risking their lives enforcing Ordinance laws and some criminal laws for the Health & Safety of the city. We need to be licensed and need to be held accountable for all the extra education to do our jobs and to know the laws. If not then any John Doe with no education and no accountability will be out there enforcing laws and getting no where. Thank You

Richard Lara
City of Uvalde
Uvalde, TX

Who would inspect the restaurants to make sure that they are in compliance with the State requirements for the sanitary condition? Who's going to the work of sending letters for junk vehicles inside private property or even dealing with high weeds and grass? Please vote NO to HB 3746

Kerl Brooks, Code Enforcement Officer
City of Castroville
Castroville, TX

It is very necessary for Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians be Licensed and registered for accountability purposes. This is necessary to have officers kept at a certain level of professionalism and be able to account for their choice of actions. without these restrictions the profession would be less reputable.

Gregory Nesbitt
Black River Services LLC
Dripping Springs, TX

My name is Gregory Nesbitt and my wife and I are Registered Sanitarians. We specialize in Septic System Design and Install. We are very much against this Bill due to the threat to Groundwater supplies and the corresponding threat to the Public's exposure to Disease that would be increased.

I have not seen any comment from the Bill's sponsors why they think this is a Great Idea.

Sincerely

Greg Nesbitt

Diana Rodriguez
City of Eagle Pass
Eagle Pass, TX

I do not agree that someone that is not licensed can do the job that requires a license. I am also not in agreement that people with license worked so hard to obtain their Code Enforcement License and continue their education yearly to get hours in order to keep their license.

Michael Gonce, Officer
Self Code Enforcement Officer
Boyd, TX

I am totally opposed to this bill. Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians should continued to be licensed, we are professionals and have worked hard to maintain our education in these fields and these positions should be licensed and regulated by state law! It would be an injustice to our profession, our positions and our education that we have worked hard to maintain just to eliminate our licensing for no apparent reason.

Anthony Ruiz

Self

Alice, TX

Repealing these provisions will be a problematic outcome for effective code enforcement in this state. The umbrella of state statutes and local ordinances that fall within the purview of code enforcement benefits from the oversight and regulation from TDLR, and allows for higher-level educational opportunities than a "Wild West" scenario that could develop without the current provisions in place.

Narada Lee

Narada Lee, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor

Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 3746. Repealing the laws relating to the licensure of sanitarians and code enforcement officers will significantly impact the health and well-being of the people in Texas, as well as the environmental health workforce. The current system works well, but if HB 3746 were to pass, hundreds of registered sanitarians with years of experience would lose their status as registered sanitarian and their jobs. Many elected officials and city management work hand in hand with these hard-working professionals to ensure the communities they manage are well maintained and kept in a safe and healthy condition. HB 3746 is not an effective and efficient solution for Texas. HB 3746 will confuse and lower the standards many Texans have worked hard to establish over the decades. Again, I asked our elected officials to reconsider and not proceed with HB 3746. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mario Valdez

City of Laredo Environmental Services

Laredo, TX

The removal of licensing does not create a benefit to the field of code enforcement

Amie Burden

self - City of Irving Health Inspections Manager

Cedar Hill, TX

I oppose HB3746. If it were to pass, hundreds of Registered Sanitarians with years of experience would lose their status as a Registered Sanitarian. Many human resource departments require the Texas credential to maintain employment. The current registration system for a Registered Sanitarian provides a pathway to professional registration for local health inspections staff and ensures cities, counties and other health entities can hire professionals with basic core competencies in environmental health.

Douglas Patrick, Registered Sanitarian

City of Amarillo

Amarillo, TX

Since 1923, the Texas Public Health Association was organized to promote the Association of Sanitarians to promulgate for public health workers, courses of instruction and the advancement of knowledge for sanitary improvements, public health nursing, hygiene control and prevention of communicable diseases. The objection of the sanitarians was to promote and protect the public's health in the State of Texas by having the education and experience of all environmental aspects that have the potential to cause an outbreak that could make hundreds to thousands of people sick or cause death due to the lack of proper health procedures and practices. The education requirements alone, plus the license certification, constitute an enormous amount of information that the normal citizen has no comprehension of what goes into protecting the health and welfare of the general public. If you take away this important credential, you are opening the State to large amounts of health outbreaks involving food borne illnesses, public swimming pool illnesses, vector borne illnesses and a host of other environmental illnesses that could affect millions of Texans because some idiot politician has no clue of what Registered Sanitarians do and have been doing for 100 years in the great State of Texas to promote a healthy environment for all of her citizens to enjoy. This proposed bill needs to die before it can even be introduced into the House.

Kitha Tankersley, Sgt.

Self

Brownfield, TX

Sanitarians and code enforcement officers are responsible for ensuring public health and safety by inspecting buildings and ensuring that they meet safety and health codes. Licensing these professionals helps ensure that they have the necessary training, education, and experience to carry out their duties effectively.

Eliminating the licensing requirements for sanitarians and code enforcement officers could lead to untrained and unqualified individuals carrying out critical public health and safety tasks. This could put people's lives and well-being at risk.

Moreover, licensing requirements help ensure accountability and professionalism in the industry. It helps prevent fraudulent or unscrupulous individuals from posing as professionals and carrying out tasks that could potentially harm people or property.

In summary, repealing laws relating to the licensure of sanitarians and code enforcement officers may have unintended consequences, potentially compromising public health and safety. Many code enforcement officers have worked really hard to become professionals in their field and I hate to see this destroy their hard work.

Roberto Garza, Code Enforcement

City of Eagle Pass

eagle Pass, TX

With no compromise for crime the code enforcement officer enforces regulation and order in our community. If this bill goes through, we will be affecting our Job and salary. Our jobs will be at risk as they will not need a license to be able to do our job. And if anyone can do the job all the taring and certification i have a received will be for nothing since there will be no need to get a license for our job duties. We will no longer be needing the continuous hours for update to legislative bill for our zoning nor for building inspections. Thank you for your time . Have a good day.

Christian Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer

City of Eagle Pass

Eagle Pass, TX

I would like to give my professional opinion on this matter. By repealing our code enforcement license, not only will it affect us in our pay but also with job security. By obtaining and being a certified code enforcement officer, not only gives us structure and professionalism. It also keeps us well educated with all the ceat conferences, training & online courses. This makes us even more creditable when enforcing state laws and city ordinances. If repealing our code license, that will mean than anyone without being educated in the field of code enforcement, will have the simple opportunity to take over without proper knowledge. It's an effort & a privilege to be considered a code enforcement officer.

Rick Barker, Director

City of Garland

Garland, TX

I am against this bill removing certifications for Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers. Representatives of municipalities should be certified to enforce the laws and ordinances of each city. The certification process ensures proper training and education of such responsibilities.

Jose Hernandez, Code Enforcement/ Health Officer

City of Pearland

Pearland, TX

It is important to recognize the craft and professionalism of this job !

Leslie Grace, Code Officer
Comanche Police Department
Comanche, TX

The Registration of Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians is essential to ensure Municipalities have well trained people they need to carry out these duties. Untrained people lacking the proper training will lead to major safety issues getting missed.

RAUL GARZA, Code Enforcement Officer
City of Eagle Pass Code Enforcement Division
Eagle Pass, TX, TX

to repeal our certification would affect our department in credibility with our residents. It would affect our opportunity to advance promotion wise, and would affect our ability to earn more pay without credible certification. we would not be able to continue with our continued learnings and trainings of our trade since no experience would be necessary to be a Code Officer. In closing all the years, we have invested with trainings and continued keeping up with changes to legislature on a yearly bases. I hope for the credibility of the Code Enforcement Divisions and the good they we all do for our communities. everthing stays the same.

Ruby Sanchez
City of San Marcos
San Antonio, TX

I do not approve to have our license taken. We worked hard to earn our license.

Michelle Hodge, Code Enforcement Officer
City of Canton/Code Enforcement Officer
Forney, TX

There is a lot that goes into training and continuing education for code enforcement officers that pertain to health and safety, as well as legal aspects. We are an asset to police and fire who are certified to do their jobs, so to remove that requirement for code officers would be a disservice to the citizens of the State of Texas.

Miley Smith
City of Cleburne
Cleburne, TX

If the state repeals these requirements it needlessly jeopardizing public health and upending our local public health workforce. By not having these certifications can put our citizens and community in danger.

- The Sunset Commission studied this issue in 2015, and sanitarians and code enforcement officers were moved from DSHS to TDLR, which has worked well.
- Individuals who receive the private REHS/RS credential receive reciprocity in Texas and do not have to take the Texas licensing exam, but many Texas sanitarians are registered on the basis of the cheaper Texas-only RS credential.
- The current system works well, but if HB 3746 were to pass, hundreds of registered sanitarians with years of experience would lose their status as a registered sanitarian and their jobs. Many human resource departments require the Texas credential, not the National credential to maintain employment. Switching to the National credential would take 4-6 years and is not an immediate solution.
- HB 3746 is a solution in search of a problem! The current registration system has served public health well, and provides a pathway to professional registration for local public health staff and ensure cities, counties, and other public health entities can hire public health professionals with basic core competencies in environmental health.

Rudolph Rhame, Mr.

Self - Code Enforcement Officer

Baytown, TX

The consideration for repeal of Occupations Code 1952 and 1953 is appalling, considering the implications of such and the potential impact to so many throughout the State of Texas. As is currently, our overutilized and under-considered trade already struggles every day to prove our quality, skill, knowledge, and worth to city and county governing bodies and budgetary groups. We rely upon the already slim registration requirements within these chapters to scratch, claw, and fight for what we deserve. The existing skeleton framework and minimal registration and continuing education requirements already provide little consistency to such an important role within our communities. Travel or communication between agencies around the state will quickly show this lack of consistency, and with this suggested repeal, things will only get worse. As you enter various communities, it becomes clear which have a strong Code Enforcement and Sanitation presence. The abundance of graffiti, rubbish and trash, dilapidated structures, junked vehicles, etc. is easily identifiable, but rarely contributed to the lack of code enforcement efforts within the community. Numerous studies and real world reports are available from tier 1 code enforcement departments such as Austin comparing the efforts of code enforcement within crime ridden areas and the crime rates within.

In addition, the sanitarian program and registration set the adequate knowledge and skill baseline for those protecting our communities and residents from food borne illness, environmental contamination, etc. This is not a topic for any run-of-the-mill employee to be tasked with. There is a reason that DSHS and the State adopted the FDA Food Code, which requires a registered sanitarian designation or training to prove inspector competency for those who inspect food establishments. Removing these regulations and requirements for registration would have dire consequences on the quality of life for millions within the State. Please deny this request and if anything, bolster the professional requirements governing over Code Enforcement Officers and Registered Sanitarians.

Peter Lamont, Dir. of Operations

City of Canton

Canton, TX

This legislation is harmful to citizens as it will allow untrained and uncertified individuals to make decisions and issue Notice of Violation against individual private property. Without proper training and the associated continuing education, these unlicensed individuals will not be required to stay current on the latest means, methods and techniques of Code Enforcement or even the current code.

Geoffre Heinicke, RS
Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials
McKinney, TX

Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials (TAMHO), an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League (TML) to voice opposition to H.B. 3746. Our members, who represent municipal health officials throughout the State of Texas, believe passage of this bill will detrimentally affect delivery of environmental public health programs, as well as quality of life and health across Texas.

Licensed Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement officers are instrumental in communities to ensure safe food and water sources and mitigate vector borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus and Zika. Credentialing and licensing of these professions establishes standardized criteria specific to each profession and sets educational and continual education requirements to maintain uniformity among licensed professionals.

According to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (2017) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (2017), Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers represent the second largest segment of public health professionals after nurses. Properly licensed Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers will ensure a professionally trained public health workforce that is capable and able to respond and adapt to a constantly changing public health threats.

Finally, TAMHO specifically believes that continuing the licensing program for Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers will ensure there are trained professionals who can respond to environmental public health needs and threats throughout the State.

Geoff Heinicke, MPH, RS
President
Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials

Melissa Govea, Health & Code Compliance Officer
Self
Prosper, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. It is very important that Code Enforcement Officers and Health Sanitarians be registered with the State of Texas. Both occupations need to be well versed in state laws and regulations to effectively fulfill their responsibilities. Proper continuing education training is required as laws and regulations are constantly changing.

Dennis Trotter
City of Webster Code Enforcement
Houston, TX

Code Enforcement is the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of violations of statutes or ordinances regulating public health, safety, and welfare, public works, business activities and consumer protection, building standards, land-use, or municipal affairs." Code Enforcement Officers go thru a lot of ongoing training, and it takes a lot to do the work of a Code Enforcement Officer. Holding a Code Enforcement license, test our ability to do the job, and you need to have certain skills, ability, commitment, and dedication etc. to the profession of Code Enforcement to do the job. You don't need a license to know how to drive a car, which learning how to drive a car is a simple process, but yet you need a driving license. For one to waste it's time on a profession that every neighborhood need, and to take away or to say getting this type of license in not important to the profession (really). It is so easy to say this or that is not important, especially when he or she don't fully understand the profession.

Kelvin Beene
Code Performance Consultants
Longview, TX

The effort to repeal the registration of code enforcement and sanitarians as regulatory professionals is reckless and it will result in the degradation of the profession. The registry program secure the training requirements that keeps these regulatory officers current with the best practices and lends credibility to a very difficult but required profession. The notion that the work of a sanitarian or code officer should not require a registration program has been proven wrong by many municipalities across the country. Code enforcement is a part of the three-legged stool of enforcement (Fire, Police, and Code). We are essential employees that has studied, taken and passed the requires test, and working in a capacity that allows them to keep our communities safe and esthetically pleasing. Do not allow this bill to pass. If it does, in a very short time, lives will be compromised due to this bill and the employment pool of candidates will be lessened.

I spoke at the Sunrise Commission years ago in Austin when this same attempt was made to deregulate code enforcement. The same argument then holds true today. Code enforcement and sanitarians play a vital role in the safety of our residences and businesses. Why would anyone want to affect the manor in which we provide safety for our constituents? needless to say, I wish I could stand on behalf of code officers and sanitarians at the hearing because to sponsor a bill that deregulates an entity that is responsible for making sure we have safe housing, esthetically pleasing neighborhoods and businesses is irresponsible and lacks the foresight to understand the long-term effects it will bring.

vashati curry
Code Enforcement Officers
Odessa, TX

Code Enforcement officers play a vital and pivotal role in keeping our Texas cities not only clean, but livable. The ability to enforce the ordinances must be done so my a licensed and trained professional. We enforce the Dangerous Building Code, Junk Vehicle Ordinances, Health and Sanitation ordinances, and many many more. An article provided by KXAN Austin addresses this very issue. There are burned homes sitting in Austin neighborhoods that have not been addressed! Imagine this in your neighborhood without the ability or personnel to address the issue! These residents of Austin, and I am sure across Texas are having to live amongst slum and blight when they should not. That is why it is vital that Code Enforcement Officers remain a licensed profession to tackle these issues. You need personnel that is educated in law and enforcement. **DO NOT REPEAL REGISTRATION AND OTHER REGULATORY PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SANITARIANS.** It will be a detriment to every single city in Texas.

Stephanie Hauck
myself
Seabrook, TX

Us as a Code Enforcement Officer that we received our license through TDLR and if this bill gets passed then what is it to us. We hold this title so we can do more than what the next person can. By having this license, it gives us the ability that the State of Texas represent us as a license officer through code enforcement. We do so much with this title we join forces with police and fire marshal to make properties safe. We lean on each other and help each other to make property to get the State of Texas code ordinance and as well city and county ordinance. You strip our title away then what do we have as a code enforcement officer. There is gratitude and pride that we hold that license and badge as a code enforcement officer. By having this license, it means so much more and the training that we go through every year to have this license makes us more knowledgeable and understanding of the code changes for Texas and what we bring back to our department. Code Enforcement officers needs these training and we need for the State of Texas to hold us accountable of our license.

Darlene Estrada, Code enforcement officer
Self
Pearland, TX

I oppose

James Polanco
City Of Pearland
Pearland, TX, TX

I oppose.

Toron Thomas
Code Enforcement Officers of Texas
Killeen, TX

It is very important that licensure and regulatory guidance be required for Texas Code Enforcement Officers. The health and safety of the general public at large is the biggest concern. Secondly, it is important that every persons legal rights are not violated during the effort to maintain compliance with City Ordinances.

James Jenkins, Mr
City of Mabank
Mabank, TX

Code Enforcement and Sanitarians are the back bone of small City's. These are the Men and Women that protect the citizens from health violations in the City's they serve. From maintaining high grass and weeds to stop vermin infestation's to sub standard structures in the city, the code enforcement officers are the most needed part of City Government. Growth in all Texas City's all falls back on how good a job the local Code Enforcement is doing there jobs. The City of Mabank has seen a lot of Growth and all the new sub divisions, and new business that have moved there business into the City has always said there decision was based on how clean the city was and who good a job the Code enforcement officers were doing there jobs. These are the people that bring new residents and business to the State of Texas .

Justin Jackson
Self
beaumont, TX

Repealing sanitarian licenses could potentially cause many licensed professionals, who have spent hours upon hours learning the ends and out of their profession, to find other means of work.
Food safety is very vital to our daily lives. I would hope someone would take into account how dedicated licensed professionals are to protecting the communities that we reside in.

Georgina Gregory
City of Seguin / Code Officer
Seguin, TX

Please go against this bill. This bill will hurt a lot of cities by making them more liable and a lot of people will loose their job. We have gone through extensive training and continuing education to be able to perform our job to a higher quality, providing a great service to our citizens and helping them create a healthy and safe environment in their properties.

Hope Bullman
City of Freeport, Texas
Freeport, TX

Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are ESSENTIAL personnel. They are the boots on the ground; local enforcement for environmental spills, illegal dumping, sewer overflows, foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, restaurant complaints, and a million more life-threatening violations. The State Inspectors do not have the staffing available to inspect and enforce local complaints. These licenses receive crucial education to be able to enforce civil laws immediately, and not wait weeks or months for state involvement. Removing these licenses would threaten the Health and Safety of every citizen in the state of Texas. I urge you to protect the welfare of our citizens, and to vote against HB 3746.

Gilbert Millan, CPM
City of Rio Grande City
Rio Grande City, TX

I oppose this bill

Gilbert Millan, CPM
City of Rio Grande City
Rio Grande City, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3746

RICARDO CORONA
956-488-8728 PLANNING DEPT, CODE ENFORCEMENT
RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

I AM AGAINST THE BILL 3746,

antonio cantu, code enforcement officer
City of Rio Grande City
Rio Grande City, TX

I'm Against this bill

FERNANDO GUERRA
RIO GRANDE CITY CODE ENFORCEMENT
RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

I am against this bill because we need people enforcing laws to have some more knowledge and school training since we all have gone to school for trainings i am against this bill

Sereca Hicks
self- licensed Sanitarian in training
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I think you should have a license to do health inspections in the state of Texas. I am unsure of why the State would relax on regulations for this license. There is already an exception to obtaining a registered professional sanitarian license in the Texas Food Establishment Rules by meeting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards basic curriculum and field training elements.

If there is a need to fill underserved areas, then I believe a compromise can be developed. Perhaps there should be 2 categories: licensed and certified sanitarians. Certified sanitarians being restricted by the population of the town, and the number of food establishments. Certified sanitarians would then need to obtain more continuing education credits than licensed sanitarians.

I do think the rules of being allowed to take the state registered sanitarian exam should be relaxed. I wasn't allowed to take the exam because I had no previous experience in the field and I was not under employment of a municipality, county or the state. However, I did meet all of the requirements for the license (the college science credits and bachelors degree). This hindered me for 5 years until the city I work at decided to take a chance on me. There might not be a shortage of available sanitarians if they relaxed this requirement.

Richard Oldbury, Code Enforcement officer
City of Vidor
Vidor, TX

Please do not approve this bill.

Dennis Thayer
Self, Registered Sanitarian
WINDCREST, TX

I am a registered sanitarian and contract health inspector for 8 Texas cities. I have been practicing as a registered sanitarian for over 45 years in both regulatory and in the food business in several states, and have also worked as such for the National Restaurant Association. I have been certified as a Registered Sanitarian (RS) in 5 states and nationally. Currently I am certified as an RS in Texas.

In regard to HB 3746, I am alarmed that the author of the bill sets out to completely eradicate the need for professional credentials of the practitioners who protect the state's food, water and air, by repealing Chapters 1952 and 1953 of the Occupations Code, particularly 1953 which allows for the existence of sanitarian registration.

There is no need for this dangerous action, in that these licensed professions assure that those in practice meet required standards to both succeed in environmental and food protection and assuring the safety of Texas citizens. If these occupation codes are repealed, either local jurisdictions may be forced to use non-certified persons to do the inspections currently performed by professionals, or they will turn to national licensing standards. Those national standards are in essence no different than current Texas standards, but will necessitate significant costs to current Texas practitioners and cause upset in both public and private organizations which now require professional certification in these fields.

Please vote against HB 3746. It is unnecessary and may cause an actual lowering of standards in governmental oversight of critical food and environmental areas, creating hazards for your constituents and all citizens of Texas.

Respectfully,

Dennis Thayer RS
202 Melody Lane
Windcrest TX 78239

Elayna Luckey, Mrs.
CEAT
Vidor, TX

The education, licensing, and registration of code enforcement officers in the state of Texas is important. Without licensing and education regarding code enforcement, the ability to enforce our cities ordinances as a trained official to do so becomes mute. I have been a licensed code officer since 2017. I maintain my license and continued education even though my position at the city has changed because the education and time I put into obtaining that license is important to me, and to the citizens I continue to serve.

Kaycee Sebastiani
Self/Environmental Health Specialist
Canyon, TX

Many Texas Sanitarians that have worked hard for environmental health for many years would be stripped of their RS certification and then in return lose their jobs. This includes hundreds of Texas residents. This would not be an immediate solution. This would take many many years to implement and many people would not be able to receive the REHS credential due to the fact that the test is very difficult. The Texas RS exam is much less expensive than the REHS as well. This is not a good solution for the overall quality of Public Health.

Raj C, EH Manager

Self / Environmental Health

Fort Worth, TX

RS and Code officer requirements have been code specific to Texas and uphold the values of Texans as we have always done by making things our own with limited outside interference. If we start doing away with Texas specific licenses then we are no different in our measures and will be like the rest without being specific to our environments, conditions and issues. Uphold Texas values and be part of the change by being unique to the needs of Texans.

Janet Tucker

Self, Registered Sanitarian and Registered Code Enforcement Officer

Wylie, TX

I am writing to voice opposition to H.B. 3746. Me and my colleagues, who represent municipal health officials throughout the State of Texas, believe passage of this bill will detrimentally affect delivery of environmental public health programs, as well as quality of life and health across Texas.

Licensed Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement officers are instrumental in communities to ensure safe food and water sources and mitigate vector borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus and Zika. Credentialing and licensing of these professions establishes standardized criteria specific to each profession and sets educational and continual education requirements to maintain uniformity among licensed professionals.

According to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (2017) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (2017), Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers represent the second largest segment of public health professionals after nurses. Properly licensed Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers will ensure a professionally trained public health workforce that is capable and able to respond and adapt to a constantly changing public health threats.

Finally, my colleagues and I believe that continuing the licensing program for Professional Sanitarians and Code Enforcement Officers will ensure there are trained professionals who can respond to environmental public health needs and threats throughout the State.

Ken Williams

Self, Environmental Health Consultant

Amarillo, TX

Looking back through the history of public health in Texas, most of the enduring advances have been made through the efforts of Registered Professional Sanitarians and Certified Code Enforcement Officers. Through our knowledge and practice, the citizens of Texas enjoy safe water supplies, safe and sanitary sewage disposal, effective mosquito and rodent control programs, food, dairy and drug safety programs, nuisance abatement, humane animal control and sanitary solid waste collection and disposal. In most instances when a catastrophe has occurred, it has been the registered sanitarians and certified code officers who local governments appeal to first. Because of our training and experience, government entities will most often appeal to their environmental health professionals to deal with that "once in a lifetime" event. Examples of events of which I speak include the aftermath of a tornado, an outbreak of encephalitis, Zika or Hantavirus, the rash of "white powder" incidents after 9/11, and enforcement of mask mandates during the recent Covid-19 epidemic.

I pray that you will oppose this bill. I have included facts that should support and justify opposing this proposed legislation.

HB 3746 would repeal laws relating to sanitarian and code enforcement officers, needlessly jeopardizing public health and upending our local public health workforce.

The Sunset Commission studied this issue in 2015, and sanitarians and code enforcement officers were moved from DSHS to TDLR, which has worked well.

Individuals who receive the private REHS/RS credential receive reciprocity in Texas and do not have to take the Texas licensing exam, but many Texas sanitarians are registered on the basis of the cheaper Texas-only RS credential.

The current system works well, but if HB 3746 were to pass, hundreds of registered sanitarians with years of experience would lose their status as a registered sanitarian and their jobs. Many human resource departments require the Texas credential, not the National credential to maintain employment. Switching to the National credential would take 4-6 years and is not an immediate solution.

HB 3746 is a solution in search of a problem! The current registration system has served public health well, and provides a pathway to professional registration for local public health staff and ensure cities, counties, and other public health entities can hire public health professionals with basic core competencies in environmental health.

Darlene Mays

Self

Odessa, TX

I am on opposition of HB 3746

Aaron Stough

Self

Plano, TX

This bill is wholly unnecessary and would be a severe detriment to the environmental health and public health professions in State of Texas. By eliminating registration/licensure for environmental health professionals to be code enforcement officers and sanitarians, you are essentially not requiring them to attend trainings and educational conferences to learn about new and emerging risks to public health, as well as other vital information relating to food, water wells, septic systems, public swimming pools, vector control, tanning salons, tattoo parlors, etc. Environmental health professionals are on the front lines in helping prevent illness, injury, and/or death in all of these areas and more and by removing these licenses, you are essentially saying you are okay with the severe risks that will come from a workforce that will not be properly trained and adequately educated to do the work that is necessary to protect public health. I strongly urge the legislature not to pass this bill.

Charles Simpson
Code Enforcement
Killeen, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill, Code Enforcement is a professional organization and takes pride in our work. To allow someone to come in without knowledge, and proper training would be a travesty. Please reconsider eliminating the need to be licensed as a Code Enforcement Officer.

JAMES BETTRIDGE, R.S.

Self
Austin, TX

Does the author understand all that people with RS licenses do? Is it recognized that the majority of septic systems in the highest growth area of the state are designed by RS's? They can only do this because Chapter 285 makes them eligible without the license, the pool of qualified septic designers will be diminished and leave us with a fraction of the qualified individuals and we would lose those who are the most specialized in the field. Licensing them inside the code by other means will take years and many will not be able to make the jump from RS to PE. I am concerned that there will be unintended consequences of this bill. The state will lose the bunk of the professionals qualified to design septic systems safe for our public, groundwater, and waterways. Public health safety will likely be the victim at a time when public health is already threatened.

Robert Holland
City of Sugar Land
Meadows Place, TX

I am opposed to passing this bill, as it would eliminate the requirements for registration and licensing of code enforcement officers and sanitarians. These positions have a vital role within a municipality in safeguarding the community and should be manned by highly trained and qualified personnel. Removing the requirements for required licenses will also remove the ability to make sure individuals have the bare minimum training or ability to properly perform the duties of the position. Thereby potentially putting the residents at greater risk of urban blight, and safe and sanitary conditions of their community. Please do not pass this bill!!!!

William Gerber, Investigator
City of Pearland
Pearland, TX

I believe that eliminating the Code Enforcement program will be a big mistake. If anything, IO believe that legislation should be stricter in regards to how people maintain their property. Texas should be a big beautiful state and yet we have junked vehicles, high grass and weeds and other things that clutter it up.

Thank You

Daniella Valdez
Self
Seguin, TX

I would like to express my concerns with HB 3746. This bill would jeopardize public health and upend our local public health workforce. Having registration/licensing and training requirements for Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians is crucial to ensure the safety, education, and due process that is due to citizens of this state. It allows cities, and counties to hire professionals with basic core competencies in environmental health and law. Please consider the communities and personal this will effect. Thank you for your time. Daniella Valdez

Justin Clarke
City of Garland
Garland, TX

Code Enforcement Officers are critical to the health and safety of neighborhoods. Removal of this law would not be in the best interest of public safety and health.

Calvin Fleming
City of Harker Heights
Harker Heights, TX

I think it is a very bad idea to stop registration for Code Enforce Officers. This is a job that takes a special l person to do and want to do.

Jose Saucedo
Code Enforcement
Uvalde, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. These licenses are essential to all our communities, in maintaining excellent quality of life for all. Without these crucial licenses you can only image in what condition our communities would find themselves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mark Posey
City of Bonham
Bonham, TX

I am against it.

Nicholas Bueche
City of Pearland
Pearland, TX

Code Enforcement is vital in helping maintain the quality an infrastructure of all cities. Registered Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitarians are the ones who help maintain the property values throughout the city.

Perry Nelson
Concerned citizens
Helotes, TX

Professionally certified Sanitarians are very qualified individuals, have been educated and trained to certify and approve designs. A profession engineer should not be the only choice for citizens to get design approval. For 30 years I was a certified Air Force mishap investigator but I am not a pilot. Same goes for sanitarians and their responsibilities.

James Soderholtz
Self
Mc faddin, TX

Sanitarians have be protecting public health for many decades. We must keep the registration.
As a RS myself I work in public health

Alex Mendoza
City of Friendswood
Friendswood, TX

The passing of this bill would hurt my job and so many others. This is how i support my family. Please do not pass this bill.
Thank you

Genesis Garces
City of Pearland Code Enforcement
Pearland, TX

They importance of Code Enforcement is detrimental to the communities they represent.

Sharon Flanagan, Demolition /Supervisor
City Of Port Arthur
Port Arthur, TX

I oppose to this bill that would repeal laws relating to the licensure of sanitarians and code enforcement officers, resulting in the elimination of those licenses in Texas law. I am a licensed Code Enforcement Officer II and see the severity of My job and what it requires. Please take knowledge of my submittal against this bill being passed. Thank
You in Advance!

William Baker
Baker Septic Service
Canyon Lake, TX

Good morning, as installer of OSSF's in the great state of TEXAS, I am of the opinion that reducing the number of professionals rural wastewater sanitation will create a vacuum. Point in case I have requested clarification of a rule from TCEQ (Donna Cosper) that would essentially remove an existing business from using a remodeled OSSF. It has been over a week since I have reached out via e-mail and have not had a response. My point is that this failing system has been on hold due to what I assume is staffing issues with TCEQ. So, my belief is the limiting the number of professionals in this or any field does not benefit public health.

Chris Harris
City of Garland Code Compliance
Garland, TX

I am in strong opposition of this House Bill. The ability for our profession being registered with the state gives weight and some meaning when we have to go to court in a criminal proceeding. Also, with the requirements of continuing education we are subject to obtain Continuing Education Units to renew our registration. For this reason we have professional Associations dedicated to maintaining a certain level of education for our profession. We want to make sure that educated individuals are working to protect our neighborhoods and Cities. Thank you for taking the time to read my opposition to HB 3746.

Jeremy Reed
Self, City of Dallas
Lancaster, TX

As a registered Code Enforcement Officer with the State of Texas and a leader in the Code Compliance field, I oppose HB3746 for its removal of important oversight of the Code Enforcement Officer profession. Code Officers protect, enhance, and support public health and safety through inspecting and rehabilitating properties. These functions protect the public from disease, fire, flood, crime, and other hazards. The oversight that the State provides ensures the public that the person conducting themselves as a Code Officer has certified credentials that are not changed from city to city or county to county. To leave continuing education requirements up to the local level would damage public trust in the profession and would put the public in harm's way.

When hiring Code Officers, it is important to know whether the individual is licensed by the State. This license provides the hiring governmental authority the understanding that the individual has a baseline of knowledge regarding state codes, administrative procedure, and legal knowledge related to the field. Without this, local governments will have to conduct repetitive and inefficient training to ensure that the bases are covered, even when hiring experienced Officers, to ensure they do not open up their entity to legal trouble and the public to malpractice.

State licensing of this profession keeps Code Officers knowledgeable and professional, keeps cities able to confidently hire, and keeps residents safe and healthy.

Please do not support this bill.

WILLIAM COLEMAN
Code Enforcement
Killeen, TX
Keep Officers License

Heather Lanham
self
Cedar Hill, TX

I believe this would result in lowering the quality and safety of life in the cities and counties of Texas. It would diminish the life and safety standards that are in place. It would result in more crime and substandard living conditions for both owners and tenants. It would result in unsafe neighborhoods, unsafe structures, more illness due to harborage, insects, rodents, etc.. Creating an over all unsafe and unhealthy city or county.

Lyndi Melton
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

This representative proposing this bill does not understand the implications this will have. Public health of not only Texans are being put in jeopardy by having health inspections of restaurants, food manufacturers, and school cafeterias to say the least be regulated by individuals with no oversight as to their competency.

Chirag Bhatt
HS GovTech Solutions
Houston, TX

Repeal of registration for a professional sanitarian is extremely detrimental to the profession and we urge the state legislature to not take this action. There are thousands of registration issued for this professional license and the repeal would mean a slap in the professional field.

Please do not pass this HB 3746.

Signed - Chirag Bhatt - Registered Professional Sanitarian

DANIEL GONZALEZ, RS 3075

Self

Kyle, TX

This HB is a BAD LAW and will remove all aspects of a REGISTERED SANITARIAN's (RS)/(Health Inspector) job functions. State Rep. Craig Goldman should look at the requirements of a Registered Sanitarian in Texas Administrative Code TITLE 16, ECONOMIC REGULATION, PART 4 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION, CHAPTER 119, SANITARIANS, RULE §119.21, Registration Requirements and our Duties. Maybe compare the work and education of a Registered Sanitarian and Code Enforcement officer before submitting this House Bill 3746. A Registered Sanitarian can enforce all Health and Safety (H & S) Codes (Environmental and Consumer State Laws), that are registered at the State of Texas Clerk's Office, which have been voted and passed by Texas State Representatives, in the same manner as this HB. When a City or Governmental Entity hires a RS, they are hired to help enforce H & S codes to ensure that the health and safety of all of the State Representative's constituents. I have been a RS or Health Inspector for over 30 years, as a RS I have been deemed to enforce variety of codes and city/county ordinances. The types of codes and ordinances I have enforced have varied over my years. I have given the responsibility to enforce codes and ordinances such as Smoking Ordinances for the City of Austin (1st in the US to enforce), reviewed plans for new construction of Food establishments, Swimming Pools & Spas along with their inspections; I've been a Lead Inspector and a Risk Assessor to investigate cases of lead poisoning in children, I have protected the community while in a rodent & vector program by trapping mosquitoes and getting them tested for west nile, equine, among other diseases. I have reviewed plans for On-Site Sewage Facilities (Septic systems) to help keep water's of the State of Texas clean. I have monitored FEMA for base flood elevations. I have ensured the health and safety of day cares, elder care, a variety of camps for head injury patients and RS's even inspect places such as the Dell hospital and other rehab centers or hospitals for their spas or therapeutic pools/spas. I think this HB is a bad law and sets a precedent that the Community and Environment are not a HIGH PRIORITY in the eyes of State Representative Craig Goldman and just indicates that deep pockets of industry may be calling shots for looser enforcement of Texas State Laws.

Tanika Claggett, Certified Code Enforcement Officer

Self - City of Killeen

Killeen, TX

I oppose of taking away the safety measures provided to the officers.

Dalton Knight, R.S.

Regulatory

Jacksonville, TX

This bill is not the answer to the problem. It will affect a very broad range and ultimately could cause total collapse of any and all areas relating to environmental health. Public Health officials such as registered sanitarians (R.S.) and code enforcement officers (CEO) are the primary prevention and guardians against communicable and non communicable diseases not only in our state but in our nation. If this bill passes there will be a spike in morbidity and mortality rates. Doing away with these credentials is in a way no different than if the bill was to get rid of nurses, or doctors for an example. We are the primary prevention in public health as it relates to environmental work. There will ultimately be no defense and whatever is put in place to replace these professional license will either not have the training and education to guard the public from becoming sick. The other problem with this bill will be the displacement of jobs. The unemployment rate will increase across the board and not only affect R.S./C.E.O but will affect other jobs as well such as the administrative workers, entire health districts, the department of state and health services, and other environmental agencies. The representative who presented this bill is obviously not educated on the risk of such suggestions and is only presenting this bill for self gain without any concern for public safety. This is absolutely atrocious.

Fidel Martinez

City of Humble

HUMBLE, TX

Repealing the Registration of either position puts would remove the safeguards put in place that make the recertification of such positions in Jeopardy. No legislative updates or Continuing educations would be required. That would put an entire legion of Code and sanitarians that keep blight and health violations at bay. Now giving These positions more authority and across the board enforcement powers would be a better idea. Creating a organization similar to TCOLE would be a better step than eliminating some accreditation.

Wiley Cloud

Self, Texas On-site Wastewater Association

Comfort, TX

I am against this bill!!

Steve Killen

City of Stephenville

Stephenville, TX

LETTER OF OPPOSITION

I have been a certified code enforcement officer and a registered sanitarian for approximately 30 years. This bill will reduce the credibility of those in the profession, lead to lower standards for those that serve in this capacity and ultimately, jeopardize the health and safety of the citizens of our great State. Paragraph 10 of the bill is an excellent example - which reduced the requirements of those that have the responsibility for the approval and inspection of on-site sewerage systems. Persons performing these duties **MUST REMAIN** properly trained and credentialed to ensure such systems are properly designed in order to protect our greatest natural resources (water wells, surface water and aquifers) from contamination. I respectfully register this comment in **OPPOSITION**. Please vote this down and continue the regulation of these professionals so that those that practice under these titles remain properly trained and credentialed to perform their duties.