
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ducharme.

DIGEST

Present law creates the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law renames the board to the State Plumbing and Electrical Board.

Present law provides that the board shall be appointed by the governor and consists of one registered engineer, one plumbing inspector, three master plumbers, and three journeyman plumbers where an appointee is chosen from a list of three names submitted by the La. State Board of Health, the La. Assoc. of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, and the La. Pipe Trades Assoc.

Proposed law retains present law but adds four master electricians, two journeyman electricians, one electrical inspector, and one registered consulting electrical engineer which are all appointed by the governor. Each appointee shall be chosen from a list of three names submitted by the La. Council of National Electrical Contractor Assoc. Chapters, the La. Chapters of the Assoc. Building Contractors, the La. Chapter of the National Assoc. of Minority Contractors, the La. Conference of Electrical Workers, the La. Chapters of the International Assoc. of Electrical Inspectors, and the La. Council on Consulting Engineers.

Present law requires four members for a quorum.

Proposed law increases the quorum number from four to eight members.

Present law provides that members of the board shall serve for six years, provided, however that initially three appointees shall serve for two years, three appointees shall serve for four years, and two appointees shall serve for six years or until their successors are appointed by the governor.

Proposed law changes present law to increase the initial two-year appointees from three to six, to increase the four-year appointees from three to six, and to increase the six-year appointees from two to four.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt tests of qualifications, based upon the current edition of NFPA 70-E, the National Electrical Code, to be possessed by persons actually engaged in electrical work of any character; and see that any person engaged in the duties of a journeyman electrician shall possess a journeyman electrician's license.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt tests of qualifications, to be possessed by any persons actually engaged in electrical work and require that any person engaged in the duties of a master electrician shall possess a master electrician's license.

Proposed law requires the board shall recognize the system of qualification or registration of electrician apprentices, as administered by joint and non-joint apprenticeship committees approved by the state of La. However, the board may accept an affidavit from an individual certifying his work experience in the electrical field, and such individual may be certified as a journeyman electrician provided he passes the written examination and pays the fees established by the board.

Proposed law prohibits a person from working as a journeyman or master electrician unless he possesses a license or renewal thereof issued by the board. A journeyman electrician may engage in the art of electrical work only when he is under the supervision of a master electrician. An apprentice electrician may engage in the art of electrical work only when he is under the direct, on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman electrician in accordance with the regulations adopted by the La. Department of Labor.

Proposed law prohibits a person from working as a master electrician unless he possesses a master electrician's license or renewal thereof issued by the board.

Proposed law prohibits an employing entity from holding itself out as engaging in the business or art of electrical work unless it employs a master electrician. Employment of a master electrician means employment on a regular paid basis for actual services performed supervising licensed journeyman electricians.

Present law preempts municipal or other local regulatory examination authority over master plumbers, notwithstanding any contrary provision of any home rule charter.

Proposed law adds journeyman plumbers, journeyman electricians, and master electricians to this list. Also preempts municipal or other local regulatory licensing authority over journeyman or master electricians.

Present law authorizes municipal or other local regulatory to assess and collect locally adopted fees and charges relative to plumbing work performed in their respective jurisdictions, but only to persons licensed under present law.

Proposed law retains present law but adds electrical work.

Proposed law requires the board to issue a license to any person who qualifies under the state board's regulations and who desires to engage in doing the work of a journeyman electrician if he passes a written and manual journeyman electrician's examination given by the board and pays the fees established by the board.

Proposed law requires the board to issue a license to any person who qualifies under the board's regulations and who desires to engage in the work of a master electrician, provided he passes a written master electrician's examination, adopted by the board, and pays the fees established by the board.

Proposed law requires a person issued a master electrician's license to designate to the board an

employing entity, which may be a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship and to notify the board of any changes in employment status with an employing entity at any time.

Proposed law provides that a master electrician who was licensed prior to January 1, 2009, as such by a municipal or other local governmental authority or possesses five years of documented board-approved business experience in electrical work shall be entitled, upon payment of a fee set by the board, to be licensed as a master electrician. The board shall by regulation adopt in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act standards relative to acceptable business experience. Proposed law shall be effective until January 1, 2010.

Proposed law provides that any journeyman electrician who was licensed prior to January 1, 2009, as such by a municipal or other local governmental authority or possesses five years of documented board-approved experience in electrical work shall be entitled, upon payment of a fee set by the board, to be licensed as a journeyman electrician.

Proposed law authorizes temporary working permits issued by the board to work as a journeyman electrician to be issued to the holder of a state license as a journeyman electrician from a state with like examinations, should that state recognize the La. license, or where other bona fide evidence shows that the applicant's past experience would be capable of protecting the public from defective electrical work. Temporary permits shall not be issued to master electricians.

Present law authorizes the board to fix and charge examination, licensing, and renewal fees for journeyman and master plumbers, persons engaged in the work or business of medical gas piping installation, for persons engaged in the work or business of a medical gas and vacuum verifier, and for persons that are water supply protection specialists.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes the board to fix and charge examination, licensing, and renewal fees for journeyman electricians and master electricians.

Present law authorizes the board to inspect plumbing work, medical gas piping installation, and the work of water supply protection specialists under its jurisdiction to assure compliance with present law.

Proposed law retains present law but authorizes the board to inspect electrical work.

Present law provides that the board may enjoin any person from engaging in doing the work of a journeyman plumber, master plumber, medical gas piping installer, medical gas and vacuum systems verifier, or water supply protection specialist wherever it appears that a person is violating or is conspiring to violate present law.

Proposed law retains present law but allows the board to enjoin journeyman electricians or master electricians.

Proposed law provides for the definitions of "journeyman electrician," "master electrician," and "electrical work."

Present law authorizes the board to revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any license or endorsement of a journeyman plumber or a master plumber and provides grounds for revocation, or lesser disciplinary action by the board.

Proposed law authorizes the board to penalize journeyman electricians and master electricians.

Present law provides for an advisory committee appointed by the La. Pipe Trades Assoc. and the La. Assoc. of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, Inc., with each organization appointing five members to the committee.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that the La. Conference of Electrical Workers and the La. Council of National Electrical Contractors Assoc. Chapters can also appoint 5 members each to the committee.

Proposed law prohibits any master electrician license or Class A electrician license from being issued, renewed, or revived until the applicant has provided proof acceptable to the board that insurance has been issued to the employing entity designated by that person by an insurer licensed to do business in this state.

Proposed law requires an employing entity to maintain comprehensive general liability and property damage insurance coverage with limits of not less than \$100,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$50,000 per occurrence for property damage, with coverage extended to operations-premises liability, independent contractor's liability, broad forms, broad form contractual liability, and completed operations and product liability. An inactive master electrician shall not be subject to proposed law.

Effective January 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(A), (B)(intro. para.), and (E), 1362, 1366(A), (B), and (C), 1367(A), (B), (C), and (E), 1368(A), (B), (C), and (D), 1369, 1371(A) and (B)(1)(a) through (h), 1372, 1373(A), 1376(A), 1377(D)(9), 1378(A)(3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), and 1379 ; Adds R.S. 37:1361(B)(4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9), 1368(J), 1377 (I), (J), and (K), and 1380(D))