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

DIGEST

Present law provides for the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law creates the State Plumbing and HVACR-Mechanical Board.

Present law provides for membership of the Plumbing Board as follows:

- (1) One Registered engineer.
- (2) One Plumbing inspector.
- (3) Three master plumbers.
- (4) Three journeyman plumbers.

Present law provides that the board shall be appointed by the governor and that each appointment shall be made from a list of three names.

Proposed law retains present law and adds additional members to the State Plumbing and HVACR-Mechanical Board. The members are as follows:

- (1) Three master HVACR-mechanics.
- (2) Three journeyman HVACR-mechanics.
- (3) One HVACR and/or mechanical inspector
- (4) One registered HVACR or mechanical consultant.

Present law provides for duties of the State Plumbing Board.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for additional duties as follows:

- (1) The board shall adopt tests of qualifications based upon the current edition of the International Code Council International Mechanical Code, Louisiana Residential Mechanical Code for One and Two-Family Dwellings, and International Code Council Fuel Gas Code to be possessed by persons actually engaged by HVACR-mechanical work of any character and require that any person engaged in the duties of a journeyman or master HVACR-mechanic possess a license granted by the board upon payment of a fee set by the board.

- (2) The board shall recognize the systems of qualifications or registration of HVACR-mechanic apprentices, as administered by joint and non-joint apprenticeship committees approved by the state of Louisiana. However, the board may accept an affidavit from an individual certifying his work experience in the HVACR-mechanical field, and such individual may be certified as a journeyman HVACR-mechanic provided he passes the written examination and pays the fees established by the board.

Present law requires the licensing of certain professions and provides that local exams are preempted by law for such professions.

Proposed law retains present law and adds additional restrictions.

Proposed law provides that no natural person shall engage in the work of either a journeyman or master HVACR-mechanic unless he possesses a license or a renewal thereof issued by the board. A journeyman HVACR-mechanic may engage in the art of HVACR-mechanic work only when he is under the supervision of a master HVACR-mechanic. An apprentice HVACR-mechanic may engage in the art of HVACR-mechanical work only when he is under the direct, on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman HVACR-mechanic in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Department of Labor.

Proposed law provides that no natural person shall engage in the work of a master HVACR-mechanic unless he possesses a master HVACR-mechanic's license or renewal thereof.

Proposed law provides that no employing entity shall hold itself out as engaging in the business or art of HVACR-mechanical work unless it employs a master HVACR-mechanic. For purposes of this Section, employment of a master HVACR-mechanic means employment on a regularly paid basis for actual services performed supervising licensed journeyman HVACR-mechanics.

Proposed law provides that the board shall adopt by regulation a gasfitter endorsement.

Present law provides for the licensure or issuance of journeyman and master plumbers, medical gas piping and installers, medical gas and vacuum systems verifiers, and water supply protection specialists.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a gasfitting endorsement and licensure of journeyman HVACR-mechanics and master HVACR-mechanics.

Proposed law provides for a grandfather provision for journeyman and master HVACR-mechanics until January 1, 2010.

Proposed law provides that the board shall adopt regulations establishing a category of inactive master HVACR-mechanics who shall be charged a reasonable annual fee.

Proposed law provides that the board shall adopt a regulation establishing a gasfitter endorsement and the qualifications necessary to acquire a gasfitter endorsement.

Present law provides for temporary work permits for journeyman plumbers.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that there shall be temporary work permits for journeyman HVACR-mechanics.

Present law provides for plumbers fees.

Proposed law retains present law and provide for HVACR-mechanics fees.

Present law provides for board inspections.

Proposed law retains present law and adds additional inspection duties to the boards' responsibilities.

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 the provisions of this Chapter.

Proposed 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, water supply protection specialist, gasfitter, journeyman HVACR-mechanic, or master HVACR-mechanic wherever it appears that a person is violating or is conspiring to violate the provisions of this Chapter.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for additional definitions.

Proposed law increases the number of members on the advisory committee from ten to twenty.

Proposed law provides for insurance requirements for master HVACR-mechanics.

Effective January 1, 2009.

(Amends R.S. 37:1361(A) and (B)(intro. para.) and (B)(3), 1367(E), 1369, 1371, 1372, 1373(A), 1376(A), 1378(A)(3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), and 1379; adds R.S. 37:1361(B)(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), 1366(J) and (K), 1367(I), (J), (K), and (L), 1368(J), (K), (L), (M), and (N), 1377(D)(10), (I), (J), (K), and (L), and 1380(D))