



HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill: House File 392
Committee: State Government
Date: April 28, 2011
Staff: Kristi Kielhorn (2-5290)
Members: Representative Pettengill

Plumbers Licensing

House File 392 makes changes to the Iowa plumber licensing act.

Summary of Action

Passed House State Government 17-5-1
Passed House 70-23
Passed Senate 50-0
Passed House 95-0
Signed by Governor

Section by Section Analysis

Sections 1 and 2—Definitions

These sections change the definition of *HVAC* to include any type of refrigeration used for food processing or preservation. They also change the definition of *hydronic* to include any type of heating or cooling system (not just comfort). Also included are changes to the definition of *refrigeration* so as to include food processing comfort systems, as well as clarification that refrigeration includes all natural, propane, liquid propane, or other gas lines associated with any component of a refrigeration system.

Section 3—Application

This section directs that the application for licensure shall be no more than two pages in length plus one security page.

Section 4—Fee Setting

This section removes the language that gave the board the authority to set the fees based on the costs of the board and licensing.

Section 5—Fee Assessment/Multiple Licenses

This section requires that the board submit to the General Assembly within 60 days of the close of the fiscal year a report. The report must include a balance sheet projecting at least three years. If the revenue projection exceeds the expense projection by more than 10 percent, the board shall adjust their fees so that the 10 percent limit is not violated. The revised

fees must be implemented no later than January 1, 2013 and every January 1 thereafter. This section also reduces the fee for each license after the purchase of the initial master license by 30 percent.

Section 6—License Fees

This section establishes that for 2011, initial license fees are to be \$50 for apprentice, \$50 for journeyman, and \$125 for master. It also states that the renewal fee shall be waived for all licenses renewed in 2011 and 2012 (and refunded if already paid) and that any initial licenses that were purchased before this bill took effect shall get a refund of the difference in fees.

This section also states that the board may only charge a fee for a paper application if an internet application is actually available.

Section 7—Volunteer Work/Helping Homeowners

This section creates an exemption from the license requirement for someone who is doing volunteer work or assisting a homeowner on their property on a volunteer basis.

Sections 8 & 9—Electrician's License Exemption

This section adds a new paragraph that exempts masters or journeyman HVAC licensees from having to obtain a special electrician's license to perform disconnect/reconnect work of existing air-conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Section 10—Military Waiver

This section adds a waiver from the written examination and prior experience requirements for a journeyman or masters license if the applicant:

- Is an active or retired member of the U.S. Military,
- Provides documentation that the applicant was deployed on active duty during any portion of July 1, 2008—December 31, 2009, **and**
- Provides documentation that shows that application has previously passed an examination which the board deems substantially similar to the examination now required **or** provides documentation that shows the applicant has previously been licensed by a state or locality.

Section 11—Three Year License

This section makes all licenses issued under this chapter three year licenses.

Section 12—CEUs & Grace Period

This section provides that 8 hours of CEU is required for each 3 year license period. It also provides for a 30 day grace period on CEUs for any reason. (Thirty days after their license expires).

Sections 13 & 14—County/City Fees

This section prohibits a county or city from collecting a fee for the right to perform plumbing work. It does not prohibit permit/inspection fees.

Section 15—Effective Upon Enactment