

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 156
Commerce and Insurance Committee Substitute Adopted 3/30/17

Short Title: Plumbing & Heating Contractors Changes. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 2, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE TYPES OF ACTIVITY REGULATED BY THE STATE
3 BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PLUMBING, HEATING, AND FIRE SPRINKLER
4 CONTRACTORS AND TO REAUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ISSUE LICENSES FOR
5 CERTAIN RESTRICTED CLASSIFICATIONS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 87-21 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 87-21. Definitions; contractors licensed by Board; examination; posting license, etc.**

9 (a) Definitions. – For the purpose of this Article:

10 ...

11 (5) Any person, firm or corporation, who for a valuable consideration, (i)
12 verifies, inspects, evaluates, tests, installs, alters or restores, or offers to
13 verify, inspect, evaluate, test, install, alter or restore, either plumbing,
14 heating group number one, or heating group number two, or heating group
15 number three, or (ii) verifies, inspects, evaluates, tests, lays out, fabricates,
16 installs, alters or restores, or offers to verify, inspect, evaluate, test, lay out,
17 fabricate, install, alter or restore fire sprinklers, or any combination thereof,
18 as defined in this Article, shall be deemed and held to be engaged in the
19 business of plumbing, heating, or fire sprinkler contracting; provided,
20 however, that nothing herein shall be deemed to restrict the practice of
21 qualified registered professional engineers. Any person who installs a
22 plumbing, heating, or fire sprinkler system on property which at the time of
23 installation was intended for sale or to be used primarily for rental is deemed
24 to be engaged in the business of plumbing, heating, or fire sprinkler
25 contracting without regard to receipt of consideration, unless exempted
26 elsewhere in this Article.

27 ...

28 (b) Classes of Licenses; Eligibility and Examination of Applicant; Necessity for
29 License. –

30 (1) In order to protect the public health, comfort and safety, the Board shall
31 establish two classes of licenses: Class I covering all plumbing, heating, and
32 fire sprinkler systems for all structures, and Class II covering plumbing and
33 heating systems in single-family detached residential dwellings.

34 (2) Restricted licenses or classifications. –

35 a. The Board shall establish and issue a fuel piping license for use by
36 persons who do not possess the required Class I or Class II plumbing



- 1 or heating license, but desire to engage in the contracting or installing
2 of fuel piping extending from an approved fuel source at or near the
3 premises, which piping is used or may be used to supply fuel to any
4 systems, equipment, or appliances located inside the premises.
- 5 b. The Board shall establish and issue a limited plumbing contractor
6 license for use by persons who do not possess the required Class I or
7 Class II plumbing license but desire to engage in the contracting or
8 installation, repair, or replacement of either of the following:
- 9 1. Exterior potable water service lines or backflow preventers
10 serving irrigation systems or domestic water service systems
11 of two inch diameter or smaller.
- 12 2. Exterior building sewer or water service piping of two inch
13 diameter or smaller.
- 14 c. The Board shall establish and issue:
- 15 1. A State and local government plumbing, heating group
16 number one, heating group number two, or heating group
17 number three technician license for use by persons who do
18 not possess the required plumbing, heating group number
19 one, heating group number two, or heating group number
20 three contractor license but desire to engage in the
21 installation, repair, or replacement of plumbing, heating
22 group number one, heating group number two, or heating
23 group number three solely as an employee of a State or local
24 government agency.
- 25 2. A State and local government plumbing, heating group
26 number one, heating group number two, or heating group
27 number three technician license for use by persons who do
28 possess the required plumbing, heating group number one,
29 heating group number two, or heating group number three
30 contractor license but also desire to engage in the installation,
31 repair, or replacement of plumbing, heating group number
32 one, heating group number two, or heating group number
33 three as an employee of a State or local government agency
34 without listing their contractor license in the name of the
35 State or local government agency. Licensed contractors who
36 obtain the State and local government technician license shall
37 be allowed to contract and perform work under their
38 contractor license only during hours such contractor is not
39 actively employed with the State or local government as a
40 technician, and is on-site carrying out the contracting activity
41 personally. No work can be performed by the State or local
42 government agency in reliance upon the technician license
43 when the licensee is not present.
- 44 d. The Board may also establish additional restricted classifications to
45 provide for:
- 46 1. The licensing of any person, partnership, firm, or corporation
47 desiring to engage in a specific phase of heating, plumbing, or
48 fire sprinkling contracting.
- 49 2. The licensing of any person, partnership, firm, or corporation
50 desiring to engage in a specific phase of heating, plumbing, or
51 fire sprinkling contracting that is an incidental part of their

