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### State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers Law

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45:14C-1. Short title

Sections 1 through 27 of this act shall be known and may be cited as "The State Plumbing License Law of 1968."


45:14C-2. Definitions

When used in this act,

(a) "Master plumber" means a person licensed pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act who has the qualifications, training, experience and technical knowledge necessary to properly plan, lay out, install and repair plumbing apparatus and equipment and to supervise others in the performance of such work in accordance with standards, rules and regulations established by the State board;

(b) "State board" means the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers established pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 1968, c. 362 (C. 45:14C-3);

(c) "Act" means this act and the rules and regulations adopted under it;

(d) "Bona fide representative" means a licensed master plumber who is the holder of not less than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of stock in a corporation, or not less than 10% of the capital of a partnership, or not less than 10% of the ownership of any other firm or legal entity engaging in the business of plumbing contracting in the State of New Jersey;

(e) "Apprentice plumber" means any person other than a master plumber or journeyman plumber who as his principal occupation is engaged in learning and assisting in the installation of plumbing;

(f) "Journeyman plumber" means any person other than a master plumber or apprentice plumber who installs, alters, repairs and renovates plumbing in accordance with standards, rules and regulations established by the board and who works under the supervision of a master plumber;

(g) "Plumbing" means the practice, materials and fixtures used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair and removal of all piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances and plumbing apparatus in connection with any of the following: sanitary drainage, storm facilities and building sewers to their respective final connection to an approved point of disposal, venting systems, public and private water supply systems of any premises to and within the property line of any building, structure or conveyance to their final connection with an approved supply system. Plumbing shall also mean the practice and materials used in the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, repair or removal of storm water, refrigeration and air conditioning drains, liquid waste or sewage;

(h) "Plumbing contractor" means any licensed master plumber, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity which undertakes or offers to undertake for another the planning, laying out, supervising, installing or making of additions, alterations and repairs in the installation of plumbing. In order to act as "a plumbing contractor," a licensed master plumber shall be the holder of not less than 10% of the issued and outstanding shares of stock in the corporation, or not less than 10% of the capital of the partnership, or not less than 10% of the ownership of any other firm or legal entity
engaging in the business of plumbing contracting in the State and shall employ either journeymen plumbers or apprentice plumbers or both.

L. 1968, c. 362, s. 2; amended 1987, c. 442, s. 1.

45:14C-3. State board of examiners of master plumbers; membership; terms; removal

There is created hereunder a State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers in the Department of Law and Public Safety, consisting of 7 citizens to be appointed by the Governor, without regard to political affiliation, and except as to members first appointed, for terms of 4 years and until the appointment of their successors. Of the members first appointed 2 shall be appointed for terms of 1 year, 2 for 2 years, 2 for 3 years and one for 4 years. Three members shall be master plumbers of at least 10 years experience, one shall be a local plumbing inspector who has held such appointment for at least 10 years, one shall be a journeyman plumber of at least 10 years experience and 2 shall be representatives of the public having no association with the plumbing industry.

No member shall be eligible for appointment for more than 2 terms. Appointments to fill vacancies on the board shall be made for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Members of the board shall be subject to removal by the Governor for cause.


45:14C-4. Compensation

Each member of the State board shall receive $25.00 for each day of actual service in attending meetings of the board at which business is transacted and in addition shall be entitled to be reimbursed for his necessary traveling expenses; provided such compensation in any fiscal year shall not exceed $1,000.00 per member.


45:14C-6. Organization of board; officers; executive secretary; clerical assistants; expenses and expenditures

The State board shall organize annually by the selection from among its members of a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary, subject to the approval of the Attorney General. Such officers shall so serve without additional compensation. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary shall serve in such capacities for a period of 1 year or until their successors are selected. Vacancies in such offices shall be filled for the unexpired terms by the State board in the manner set forth above. The State board with the approval of the Attorney General is authorized to appoint an executive-secretary without regard to the provisions of Title 11, Civil Service and such clerical assistants as may be required and within the limits of available appropriations and to fix their compensation. The State board is hereby authorized to incur such other necessary expenses, within available appropriation therefor, as may be required to carry out its functions and purpose. All moneys received by the State board shall be remitted to the State Treasury. All expenditures deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of this act shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the license fees and other sources of income of the board, within the limits.
of available appropriations according to law, but in no event shall expenditures exceed the revenues of the board during any fiscal year.


45:14C-7. Rules and regulations

The State board may adopt, amend and promulgate such rules and regulations which may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; provided, however, that the board's jurisdiction shall not include the regulation or determination of matters relating to trade or craft jurisdiction or the determination of whether any particular class of employee is entitled to perform any particular work.


45:14C-8. Witnesses; oaths and affirmations

The State board, under the hand of its chairman and the seal of the State board, may subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance before it and may require the production of such papers or documents in any matter involving proceedings for the revocation, refusal to issue, or suspension of any State license issued hereunder. Any member of the State board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the State board.


45:14C-9. Records of proceedings

The State board shall keep a record of all proceedings conducted before it.


45:14C-10. Register of applications for State licenses, certificates of certification.

The State board shall keep a register of all applications for State licenses and certificates of certification, which register shall show: (a) name, age and residence of the applicant, (b) date of application, (c) principal place of business of applicant, (d) name and address of employer firm or corporation, if not self-employed, (e) whether or not an examination was required, (f) whether the applicant was accepted or rejected, (g) the number of the license or certificate of certification, if issued, (h) the date of the action of the State board, and (i) any other information prescribed by the State board.

Amended 2003, c.205, s.7.


The State board shall keep a register of all applications by individuals registering as journeymen plumbers, and apprentice plumbers enrolled in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, which register shall include the following
information: (1) name, address, telephone number, age and social security number of the apprentice or
journeyman plumber; (2) date and type of registration application; (3) name, address and telephone
number of the plumbing contractor employing the apprentice or journeyman plumber; (4) whether the
applicant was accepted or rejected, and in the case of a rejection, the reasons for that action; (5) the
registration number, if issued; (6) the date of the action by the State board; and (7) any other
information the State board deems necessary.

L.1998,c.96,s.2.

45:14C-10.2. Application for registration; fees.

On and after the effective date of P.L.1998, c.96, any person desiring to register as an apprentice or
journeyman plumber shall make application to the State board to be so registered and shall pay all the
fees required in connection therewith, which fees shall be established, prescribed or changed by the
State board to the extent necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by the State board to
administer the provisions of this act. However, fees shall not be fixed at a level that will raise amounts
in excess of the amount estimated to be so required.

L.1998,c.96,s.3.

45:14C-11. Application; fees

On and after the effective date of this act, any person desiring to obtain a State master plumber's
license shall make application to the State board to be licensed as described herein and shall pay all the
fees required in connection therewith, and be examined as herein required.


45:14C-12.1. Examination waiver

The State board shall, upon application to it and payment of the prescribed fee, issue a State master
plumber's license without examination to any person who held a plumber's license issued by a
municipality, local board of health or other agency for at least five years prior to the effective date of
this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act and who demonstrates to the board's satisfaction that the
experience qualifies the applicant to fulfill the responsibilities of a master plumber. Application
pursuant to this section shall be made within six months of the effective date of this amendatory and
supplementary act.

L. 1987, c. 442, s. 6.

45:14C-12.2. Ban on new municipal licenses

On or after the effective date of this 1987 amendatory and supplementary act, a municipality, local
board of health or any other agency shall not issue any plumber's license.

L. 1987, c. 442, s. 7.
45:14C-12.3. Exclusive licensing procedure

a. On or after the effective date of P.L.1987, c.442 (C.45:14C-12.1 et seq.), a person shall not work as a master plumber or use the title or designation of master plumber unless licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1987, c.442 (C.45:14C-12.1 et seq.).

b. On or after the effective date of P.L.1987, c.442 (C.45:14C-12.1 et seq.), a person, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall not engage in the business of plumbing contracting or advertise in any manner as a plumbing contractor or use the title or designation of plumbing contractor unless authorized to act as a plumbing contractor pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1987, c.442 (C.45:14C-12.1 et seq.).

c. In addition to any penalty authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-25), any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity that knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

L.1987, c.442, s.8; amended 1992, c.62; 2017, c.173, s.1.

45:14C-12.4. Exemption

The provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act shall not apply to a single family home owner who performs plumbing work on his own dwelling.

L. 1987, c. 442, s. 9.

45:14C-14. Municipal inspection power

This act shall not deny to any municipality the power to inspect plumbing work or plumbing equipment or the power to regulate the standards and manner in which plumbing work shall be done, but no municipality, local board of health or other agency shall require any master plumber licensed under this act or any master plumber or plumbing contractor authorized to engage in the business of plumbing contracting under this act to obtain any additional license, apply for or take any examination or pay any licensing fee.

L. 1968, c. 362, s. 14; amended 1987,c.442,s.2.

45:14C-15. Qualifications

Not less than 30 days and no more than 60 days prior to the date set for the examination for a master plumber's State license, every person, except as herein provided, desiring to apply for a State license, who shall meet the qualifications as set forth herein, shall deliver to the State board, personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, a certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey in the required amount as set forth herein, together with such written application as shall be required by the State board, completed as therein described, and together with proof of qualifications as described hereunder.

The qualifications which shall be met and satisfied shall be as follows:
a. The person shall be 21 or more years of age and a citizen or legal resident of the United States; and

b. (1) The person shall have been engaged or employed in the plumbing trade for a period of five years preceding the date of his application for a State license. One of the five years shall have been spent while engaged or employed as a journeyman plumber. Four years of the five years shall have been spent in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, with proof of passage and successful completion of this program while actively engaged or employed as a plumbing apprentice. For a period of four years following the effective date of P.L.1998, c.96, each year of employment in the plumbing trade or enrollment in a formal plumbing apprenticeship program shall be accepted by the State board in lieu of one year’s enrollment in a plumbing apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor, up to a maximum total credit of four years; or

(2) The person shall have been awarded a bachelor's degree in mechanical, plumbing or sanitary engineering from an accredited college or university in the United States which the board finds acceptable and in addition shall have been engaged or employed in the practical work of installing plumbing systems for one year as an apprentice or journeyman plumber.

Proof of compliance with such qualifications or those in lieu thereof shall be submitted to the State board in writing, sworn to by the applicant, and such written proof shall be accompanied by two recent photographs of the applicant.

l.1968,c.362,s.15; amended 1987, c.442, s.3; 1998, c.96, s.1; 2001, c.37

45:14C-16. Examinations; fees

(a) Every State master plumber's license examination shall be substantially uniform and shall be designed so as to establish the competence and qualifications of the applicant to perform the type of work and business as described by this act. The examination may be theoretical or practical in nature, or both.

(b) The examination shall be held at least 4 times a year, at Trenton or such other place as the State board shall deem necessary. Public notice of the time and place of the examination shall be given.

(c) No person who has failed the examination shall be eligible to be reexamined for a period of 6 months from the date of the examination failed by such person.

(d) The following shall be the fees charged by the State board:

First application for master plumber's license .......................$100.00

Annual renewal of master plumber's State license ................$50.00

Re-examination for master plumber's State examination ......$35.00

Any licensed master plumber, however, who serves as a plumbing inspector pursuant to the "State Uniform Construction Code Act," and who presents satisfactory evidence to the State board indicating same, shall not be required to pay the master plumber's license renewal fee; provided, however, that said license shall be invalid during such period of service as plumbing inspector. Upon termination of service as a plumbing inspector, the licensee shall present satisfactory evidence to the State board
indicating same, whereupon the master plumber's license shall become valid, subject to other requirements of this act.


45:14C-17. Issuance of license without examination

The State board shall, upon application to it and the payment of the prescribed fee, issue a State master plumber's license without examination to any person who, within 6 months following the effective date of this act, submits satisfactory evidence that he has been employed or engaged in the business of plumbing for 5 years prior to the date of his application for a State license. The persons entitled to State license under this provision of this act shall comply with the remaining provisions of this act.


45:14C-18. Expiration of license; renewal; exceptions.

Every State license issued hereunder shall automatically expire on June 30 following the date of its issuance. Licenses may be renewed annually by the State board upon written application of the holder and payment of the prescribed fee and renewal of required bond. Such license may be renewed without the holder having to be re-examined, provided said application for renewal is made within 30 days next preceding or following the scheduled expiration date. Any applicant for renewal making application at any time subsequent to the 30 days next following the scheduled expiration date may be required by the State board to be re-examined, and such person shall not continue to act as a State licensed master plumber, as described in this act, and no firm, corporation or other legal entity for which such person is the bona fide representative shall operate thereafter under a State license in the plumbing business, as described in this act, until a valid State license has been secured or is held by a bona fide representative.

Any State license expiring while the holder thereof is outside the continental limits of the United States in connection with any project undertaken by the Government of the United States shall be renewed without such holder being required to be re-examined, upon payment of the prescribed fee at any time within 4 months after such person's return to the United States.

L.1968, c.362, s.18; amended 2008, c.62, s.2.

45:14C-18.1. Continuing education required for master plumber

The State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers shall require each master plumber, as a condition for biennial license renewal pursuant to section 18 of P.L.1968, c.362 (C.45:14C-18), to complete any continuing education requirements imposed by the board pursuant to section 2 of this act.

L.1996,c.158,s.1.

45:14C-18.2. Standards for continuing plumbing education

a. The board shall:
(1) Establish standards for continuing plumbing education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study, the selection of instructors, and the number and type of continuing education credits required of a licensed master plumber as a condition for biennial license renewal, except that the number of credits required shall not exceed five in any biennial license period;

(2) Approve educational programs offering credit towards the continuing plumbing education requirements; and

(3) Approve other equivalent educational programs, and shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion of these programs.

b. In the case of education courses and programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to one credit.

L.1996,c.158,s.2.

45:14C-18.3. Waiving of requirements

The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for continuing plumbing education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship such as illness or disability, retirement of the license or other good cause.

L.1996,c.158,s.3.

45:14C-18.4. Completion not required for initial renewal of license

The board shall not require completion of continuing plumbing education credits for an initial renewal of license.

L.1996,c.158,s.4.

45:14C-18.5. Carrying over of credits permitted

In the event a master plumber completes a number of continuing education credit hours in excess of the number required by the board pursuant to section 2 of this act, the board may allow that those credits be carried over to satisfy the master plumber's continuing education requirement for the next biennial licensure period, but shall not be applicable thereafter.

L.1996,c.158,s.5.

45:14C-19. Reciprocity with other States

The State board may in its discretion grant State licenses without examination to applicants so licensed by other States; provided that equal reciprocity is provided for New Jersey master plumbers by law of such applicant's domiciliary State and provided further that such sister State's standards are equal to or comparable to those of this State.

45:14C-20. Firm, corporation or other legal entity operating without representative

No firm, corporation or other legal entity operating under and by virtue of this act shall be denied the privilege of conducting and continuing the business of plumbing, by reason of the death, illness or other substantial disability of the bona fide representative of such firm, corporation or other entity, provided (a) such firm, corporation or other entity has complied with the other provisions of this act, and (b) that such firm, corporation or other entity maintains a place of business within this State, and (c) another bona fide representative of such entity obtains for a State license within 6 months from the date of such death, illness or disability. The State board may promulgate additional regulations governing the management and operation of such an entity during that period of time when such entity shall be in operation without having a bona fide representative.


45:14C-21. Nontransferability and nonassignability of licenses

All State licenses issued hereunder shall be nontransferable and nonassignable; and at a hearing held before the State board, any license which shall have been found to have been so transferred or assigned shall be suspended or revoked by the State board upon due notice to the holder thereof. Such hearing and notice shall be conducted in accordance with the terms of this act.


45:14C-26. Bonds

In addition to such other bonds as may be required pursuant to contract, no master plumber who is the holder of a license under the provisions of this act shall undertake to do any plumbing work in the State of New Jersey or any political subdivision thereof unless and until he shall have first entered into a bond in favor of the State of New Jersey in the sum of $3,000.00 executed by a surety company authorized to transact business in the State of New Jersey, approved by the Department of Banking and Insurance and to be conditioned on the faithful performance of the provisions of this act. No municipality shall require any similar bond from any master plumber licensed under this act. The board shall by rule and regulation provide who shall be eligible to receive the financial protection afforded by the bond required to be filed hereunder. The aforesaid bond shall be for the term of 12 months and shall be renewed at each expiration for a similar period.


45:14C-27. Severability

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision of this act, or any part thereof, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held unconstitutional, the remaining provisions, and parts thereof, and application of such provisions, or part thereof, to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.


a. No person shall install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping unless certified by the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers in accordance with the provisions of this act.

b. No person shall provide instruction regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping unless certified by the State board in accordance with the provisions of this act.

For purposes of this act, "medical gas piping" means that medical gas piping within: a health care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.); the office of a licensed dentist, or a dental clinic, as defined in section 1 of P.L.1951, c.199 (C.45:6-15.1); or an animal or veterinary facility as defined in section 1 of P.L.1983, c.98 (C.45:16-1.1), and located after the source valve and intended for patient or animal use.

L.2003, c.205, s.1; amended 2013, c.222.

45:14C-29. Eligibility for certification.

a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, to be eligible to be certified to install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping, an applicant shall be of good moral character and submit to the State board satisfactory evidence that he:

   (1) (a) is a master plumber, or a journeyman plumber who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

       (b) is an apprentice plumber who has successfully completed not less than three years of an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

       (c) is a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

       (d) is certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards;

   (2) has successfully completed not less than 32 hours of classroom training relating to the most recent edition of the Standard on Gas and Vacuum Systems issued by the National Fire Protection Association; and

   (3) (a) has passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant's competence to install, improve, repair and maintain medical gas piping;

       (b) has passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society, and has successfully completed a training program in the installation of medical gas piping approved by a major medical gas producer; or

       (c) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.
The successful completion of any such examination provided for in this paragraph may have been accomplished before the effective date of this act.

b. To be eligible to be certified to perform only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping, an applicant shall be of good moral character and submit to the State board satisfactory evidence that he:

(1) (a) is a master plumber, or a journeyman plumber who has successfully completed an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(b) is an apprentice plumber who has successfully completed not less than three years of an apprenticeship program accredited and approved by the United States Department of Labor;

(c) is a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

(d) is certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards;

(2) has successfully completed not less than 20 hours of classroom training relating to the performance of brazing duties required in the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping; and

(3) (a) has passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant’s competence in performing brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping;

(b) has passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society and has successfully completed a training program in the brazing of medical gas piping approved by a major medical gas producer; or

(c) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.

The successful completion of any such examination provided for in this paragraph may have been accomplished before the effective date of this act.

L.2003,c.205,s.2.

45:14C-30. Requirements for certification.

To be eligible for certification to provide instruction regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping, an applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

a. Be licensed as a master plumber or journeyman plumber in this State, or be a pipe fitter or steam fitter employed by a plumbing contractor; or

b. Have been actively engaged in the practice of installing medical gas piping or be certified in his area of expertise in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association standards for at least five consecutive years preceding the date of application for certification as an instructor;
c. Have successfully completed not less than 40 hours of instructional training in the field of medical gas piping installation, improvement, repair and maintenance as approved by the State board; and

d. (1) passed an examination offered by the National Inspection Testing and Certification Corporation (NITC), or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the State board, that demonstrates the applicant's competence to teach in the field of medical gas piping installation, improvement, repair and maintenance;

   (2) passed an examination as a brazer offered by the American Welding Society and has successfully completed a training program in instructional training approved by a major medical gas producer; or

   (3) is certified in accordance with the appropriate American Society of Sanitary Engineering standards for the operations being performed.

L.2003,c.205,s.3.


a. The State board shall issue a certificate of certification to any applicant who, in the opinion of the State board, has satisfactorily met the requirements of this act.

b. The State board shall by rule or regulation establish, prescribe or change the fees for certificates or other services provided by the State board pursuant to the provisions of this act. Certificates for persons certified to install, improve, repair or maintain medical gas piping, or certified as instructors regarding the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping shall be issued for a period of three years and be renewable. Certificates for persons performing only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping shall be issued for a period of one year and be annually renewable.

c. Fees shall be established, prescribed or changed by the State board to the extent necessary to defray all proper expenses incurred by the State board and any staff employed to administer this act, except that fees shall not be fixed at a level that will raise amounts in excess of the amount estimated to be so required.

d. All fees and any fines imposed by the State board shall be paid to the State board and shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and become part of the General Fund.

L.2003,c.205,s.4.


a. Any person who engaged in the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping for not less than three consecutive years preceding the enactment date of this act may acquire certification as provided in subsection a. of section 2 of this act if that person has met the requirements specified in paragraph (3) of subsection a. of section 2 of this act no later than two years following the enactment date of this act.
b. Any person who performed only brazing duties incidental to the installation, improvement, repair or maintenance of medical gas piping for not less than three consecutive years preceding the enactment date of this act may acquire certification as provided in subsection b. of section 2 of this act if that person has met the requirements specified in paragraph (3) of subsection b. of section 2 of this act no later than two years following the enactment date of this act.

L.2003,c.205,s.5.

45:14C-33. Inapplicability of act.

The provisions of this act shall not apply to any electrical contractor licensed by the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors pursuant to P.L.1962, c.162 (C.45:5A-1 et seq.), and any person in his employ while performing the duties of his employment, who is acting within the scope of his profession or occupation.

L.2003,c.205,s.6.