

# HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

## HB 1838

**Brief Description:** Providing for a certificate of competency as a medical gas piping installer.

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**Sponsors:** Representatives Cairnes, Conway, Wood, Alexander, Cody, Mielke, Kenney, Talcott, Cole, Hatfield, Murray, O'Brien, Smith, Constantine and Mason

Hearing: February 27, 1997

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Labor and Industries administers a certification program for persons wishing to engage in the trade of plumbing. Plumbing means the craft of installing, altering, repairing and renovating portable water systems, liquid waste systems, and medical gas piping in a building. Medical gas piping means oxygen, nitrous oxide, high pressure nitrogen, medical compressed air, and medical vacuum systems.

The department issues journeyman plumber certificates of competency, speciality plumber certificates of competency, or temporary certificates to qualified individuals who wish to engage in the plumbing trade. An applicant for both the journeyman plumber and speciality plumber certificates must take an examination which tests general knowledge and practical procedures of the trade, and familiarity with the applicable plumbing codes and administrative rules of the department

To be eligible to take the journeyman plumber's examination, an applicant must have four or more years of work in the trade under the direct supervision of a certified journeyman plumber, or have completed a plumbing course in the U.S. armed forces or at a school accredited by the Coordinating Council on Occupational Education. To be eligible to sit the speciality plumber's examination, an applicant must have three years of practical work in the speciality, or have completed a plumbing course in the U.S. armed forces or at a school accredited by the Coordinating Council on Occupational Education.

A contractor may not employ a person to engage in the plumbing trade unless the person has a temporary permit, or training certificate, or a certificate of competency as a journeyman plumber or speciality plumber.

A plumbing apprentice may work in the trade if directly supervised by a certified journeyman

or certified specialty plumber. An apprentice and all individuals learning the plumbing trade are required to obtain a training certificate from the department. The ratio requirement of apprentices to certified journeyman plumbers, or certified speciality plumbers is one to one.

The department may suspend or revoke a certificate of competency or a temporary permit for certain specified infractions.

**SUMMARY OF BILL:**

The definitions are revised to include medical gas piping installer.— Medical gas piping installer means a certified journeyman plumber who holds a certificate of competency as a medical piping installer.

Revises the requirement for individuals to engage in the plumbing trade. A person is required to obtain certificates of competency as a journeyman plumber and a medical gas piping installer in order to install medical gas piping. A trainee may engage in the installation of medical gas piping if he or she is directly supervised by a certified journeyman plumber, or a speciality plumber. A contractor may not employ a person to install medical gas piping unless that person has certificates of competency as a journeyman plumber and a medical gas piping installer.

A person applying for a certificate of competency as a medical gas piping installer has a duty to prove to the department that they meet the requirements for a certificate of competency, and pay a fee. The department approves training courses and administers a written and practical examination for all applicants for medical gas piping installer certification.

An individual with a current training certificate who has successfully completed or is enrolled in a medical gas piping installer training course approved by the department may work on a medical gas piping system. An individual may work on the system if he or she is directly supervised by a certified medical gas piping installer full-time on a one to one ratio.

Reference to the Commission on Vocational Education is deleted and replaced with the Work Force Training and Education Coordinating Board.

**RULES AUTHORITY:** The bill does not contain provisions addressing the rule-making powers of an agency.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.