

Commerce & Labor Committee

HB 2172

Brief Description: *Modifying provisions on the repair and maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Grant and Mastin.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Creates a specialty plumbing certificate of competency for backflow prevention assembly repair and maintenance.*

Hearing Date: *2/26/01*

Staff: *Jill Reinmuth (786-7134).*

Background:

State law requires that a backflow prevention device be installed in piping carrying used water, chemicals, liquids, gases or other substances that is interconnected with piping carrying potable water if there is a possibility that undrinkable substances could flow into the pipe or potable water system. A backflow prevention device prevents undrinkable substances from flowing into pure or potable water systems.

The Department of Health requires that a backflow assembly tester inspect certain backflow prevention devices annually. To inspect these devices, a person must be certified as a backflow assembly tester by the Department of Health. To repair these devices, the person must be certified as a journey level plumber and registered as a contractor by the Department of Labor and Industries.

Summary of Bill:

A specialty plumber certificate of competency for in-line maintenance and repair of backflow prevention assembly within buildings is created. To qualify to take the exam to become certified in this specialty, a person must be certified as a backflow assembly tester

by the Department of Health and registered as a contractor by the Department of Labor and Industries. A person need not be certified as a journey level plumber.

A provision is deleted that permitted an applicant to demonstrate eligibility to take the exam for a certificate of a competency by furnishing evidence that he or she completed a course of study in the plumbing trade at a school accredited by the commission for vocational education. (The commission was terminated in 1986 under the Sunset Act.)

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

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Requested on February 22, 2001.*

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*