

# State Plumbing Board of Louisiana



Louisiana Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

## Panel Discussion

Carl Bourgeois

Vincent Giglio, III

Ashley J. Tullier

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152 (LA R.S. 37:1361 – 1380)

§1361. State Plumbing Board, appointments; qualifications; legislative intent; authority

B. The State Plumbing Board is created. The board, which shall be appointed by the governor, shall consist of one registered engineer who is also licensed by the State Plumbing Board, one plumbing inspector who is also licensed by the State Plumbing Board, three master plumbers, three journeyman plumbers, and one tradesman plumber. Each appointment shall be made from a list of three names for each appointment submitted by the following:

- (1) The registered engineer and the plumbing inspector by the president of the Louisiana Department of Health.
- (2) Master Plumbers by the Louisiana Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors or its successor.
- (3) Journeyman plumbers by the Louisiana Pipe Trades Association or its successor.
- (4) The tradesman plumber by the executive director of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana.

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152

§1366. Duties of the board

C. The board shall recognize the system of qualification or registration of apprentices as administered by joint and nonjoint apprenticeship committees approved by the director of apprenticeship and nonregistered apprentices in the employ of an employing entity.

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152

§1367. License required; tradesman, journeyman, and master plumber; medical gas piping installer; medical gas and vacuum systems verifier; water supply protection specialist endorsement; gas fitter and master gas fitter; local examination preempted

A. (2) No natural person shall engage in doing the work of a journeyman plumber unless he possesses a license or renewal thereof issued by the board. A journeyman plumber may engage in the art of plumbing only when he is under the employment of a master plumber licensed by this board. Any journeyman plumber that repaired plumbing independently and without the supervision of a master plumber prior to January 1, 2024, may continue to operate in such a manner for a period of five years, and shall within that five-year period pass the master plumber examination to obtain a master plumber license. Apprentices may engage in the art of plumbing only when they are under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber. Direct, constant, on-the-job supervision means that a licensed journeyman plumber will supervise apprentices as governed by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152

§1368. Issuance of tradesman, journeyman, and master plumber's license; medical gas piping and installation license; medical gas and vacuum systems verifier license; water supply protection specialist endorsement; exemption; gas fitter

A.(1) The board shall issue a tradesman plumber limited license to any person who meets the following qualifications:

(b) Has worked at least four thousand hours as an unindentured apprentice or at least three thousand hours as an indentured apprentice at the manual labor of plumbing under the direct, constant, on-the-job supervision of a journeyman or master plumber licensed by the board

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152

C.(1) Apprentice plumber. An "apprentice plumber" is a natural person engaged in learning the plumbing trade by working under the direct on-the-job supervision of a journeyman plumber and in the employ of an employing entity. Apprentice plumbers shall be indentured in an apprenticeship program approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission or unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity.

(2) Apprentice gas fitter. An "apprentice gas fitter" is a natural person engaged in learning the gas fitting trade by working under the direct, on-the-job supervision of a gas fitter and in the employ of an employing entity. Apprentice gas fitters shall be indentured in an apprenticeship program approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission or may be unindentured and in the employ of an employing entity.

# Legislative Session 2023

## SB218 – ACT152

§1380. Insurance requirements for master plumbers and master natural gas fitters

A. No master plumber license or master natural gas fitter license shall be issued, renewed, or revived until the applicant has provided proof acceptable to the board that insurance has been issued to the employing entity which is designated in accordance with R.S. 37:1367 by an insurer authorized to do business in this state.

B. The employing entity shall maintain:

(3) Comprehensive general liability and property damage insurance in a minimum aggregate amount of five hundred thousand dollars.

# Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46 Part LV. Plumbers

## Alternative Pathway for Apprenticeship: Indentured and Unindentured

All persons performing the work of an apprentice journeyman plumber or natural gas fitter shall be registered with the SPBLA.

- The dual pathways shall include a registered indentured apprentice or an unindentured registered apprentice.
  - Registered indentured apprentices will be approved by the Louisiana Workforce Commission prior to registration.
  - Registered unindentured apprentices shall be employed by a licensed master.
- 1) An apprentice will be *requested* to submit a paycheck stub for each company that they have worked for at the time of renewal during that year. They will however be *required* to turn in the most recent paystub to verify that they are still employed by a Master prior to renewing their apprentice registration.
  - 2) Once they have worked the required hours and are eligible to take the any exam, they can either submit official payroll documentation or provide W-2's that match the paycheck stubs previously submitted.
  - 3) Those that fail to submit paycheck stubs throughout the years will still be required to submit if applying with W-2's.

# Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46 Part LV. Plumbers

- When applying for an examination, all apprentices must have been registered with the SPBLA during the time in which they are submitting on-the-job training time, except time submitted prior to the law change.
- In that case any time submitted prior to must still be submitted by official payroll documentation or W-2's with paycheck stubs for the years that they are applying for.

# Louisiana Administrative Code

## Title 46 Part LV. Plumbers

### Alternative Pathway for Licensure: Indentured and Unindentured

- Tradesman Examination:

Indentured Apprentice: 3,000 hours

Unindentured Apprentice: 4,000 hours

- Natural Gas Fitter Examination:

Indentured Apprentice: 3,000 hours

Unindentured Apprentice: 4,000 hours

- Journeyman Plumber Examination:

Indentured Apprentice: 7,000 hours

Unindentured Apprentice: 8,000 hours

# Alternative Pathway Overview : Indentured and Unindentured

## Indentured Pathway

Register with an approved Louisiana Workforce Commission Apprenticeship Program



Register as an Apprentice with the SPBLA Board



3,000 hrs – Tradesman and/or Natural Gas examination



7,000 hrs – Journeyman Plumber examination

## Unindentured Pathway

Must be an employee of a licensed Master company.



Register as an Apprentice with the SPBLA Board



4,000 hrs – Tradesman and/or Natural Gas examination



8,000 hrs – Journeyman Plumber examination

# Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46 Part LV. Plumbers

- Redefining Direct on-the-job supervision:

*Direct, Constant On-The-Job Supervision*—a licensed journeyman plumber/master plumber or natural gas fitter/master natural gas fitter is physically present and in direct communication at the property or jobsite for residential construction and single-story or single building commercial construction, and in the same building on the same floor level for multi-level or multi-story commercial construction, where the apprentice is engaged in plumbing. A licensed journeyman plumber/master plumber or natural gas fitter/master natural gas fitter may supervise apprentices who are engaged in plumbing or natural gas fitting at that time as governed by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. An apprentice doing work other than plumbing or natural gas fitting shall not be considered an apprentice for purposes of supervision.

# Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46 Part LV. Plumbers

- Vice-Chairman Procedure:

f. Appoint a vice chairman in his vacancy until the next board meeting, where a nomination committee will recommend the next vice chairman, subject to a vote by the board.

- Responsible Master:

An employing entity must designate one responsible MP and/or MNGF for purposes of enforcing the ACT.

- Ratio Request:

Request a 2:1 ratio for a period of 10 years from the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

# State Plumbing Board of Louisiana 2024 – 2025 Projections

- Online Renewals and Applications
- Online portal that allows the licensee to chose either electronic or mail notifications.
- Larger Examination Facility
- Dual Examination Trial
- Prospect West Louisiana Testing Location
- 2021 Code Examinations
- Additional Regulatory changes

# SPBLA

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

State Plumbing Board of Louisiana  
11304 Cloverland Avenue  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Office: (225) 756-3434  
Fax: (225) 756-3433

