CHAPTER 49

PLUMBERS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3301. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §1 (AMD).]

1. Apprentice plumber.
[PL 1983, c. 468, §11 (RP).]

[PL 1985, c. 389, §16 (NEW).]

1-B. Department. "Department" means the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.
[PL 1985, c. 389, §16 (NEW).]

2. Board. "Board" means the Plumbers' Examining Board appointed under section 3401.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Journeyman-in-training. "Journeyman-in-training" means a person who is licensed under this chapter to assist in making plumbing installations under the direct supervision of a journeyman plumber or a master plumber who may not act as or represent that the person is a journeyman plumber, as defined in subsection 3.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §1 (AMD).]

3. Journeyman plumber. "Journeyman plumber" means any person who customarily performs the work of installing plumbing and drainage under the employment and direction of a master plumber or, not being a master plumber, does plumbing repair work as a regular part-time occupation.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §1 (AMD).]

4. Limited license. "Limited license" means a limited plumber's license to install and service plumbing work related to a specific type of plumbing equipment or to specific plumbing installations granted to any person who has passed a satisfactory examination before the board. It must specify the name of the person who is limited to engage in the occupation of installing and servicing the plumbing work related to the type of equipment or to specific plumbing installations only as authorized by the license.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §1 (AMD).]

5. Master plumber. "Master plumber" means any individual qualified under this chapter engaging in or about to engage in the business of installing plumbing or plumbing systems. The license must specify the name of the individual to whom the license is issued.
[PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §1 (AMD).]

5-A. Propane and natural gas installer. A "propane and natural gas installer" means a person licensed under chapter 139 when installing propane and natural gas utilization equipment, subject to the restrictions of that person's license.
[PL 2009, c. 344, Pt. D, §11 (AMD); PL 2009, c. 344, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]
6. **Trainee plumber.** "Trainee plumber" means any person who is engaged in assisting in making plumbing installations under the direct supervision of one or more licensed journeyman plumbers or licensed master plumbers, whether for the purpose of learning the trade or otherwise. [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

7. **Trainee plumber.**

[PL 1983, c. 468, §15 (RP).]

**SECTION HISTORY**


**§3302. Applicability**

1. **License required.** A license is required for any individual who is engaged in plumbing or performing plumbing installations. No license is required for any activity for which a permit is not required under Title 30, section 3223 or its successor. This section does not apply to the following:

   A. Plumbing by regular employees of public utilities as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, when working as such; [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. B, §33 (AMD).]

   B. Plumbing by oil burner technicians, duly licensed under chapter 139, and propane and natural gas installers, licensed under chapter 139, except that this exception only applies to hot and cold water connections to existing piping in the same room where the installation is taking place and does not apply beyond any existing branch connection supplying water; [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

   C. Plumbing by a person in a single-family residence occupied or to be occupied by that person as that person's bona fide personal abode as long as the installation conforms with board laws and rules; [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

   D. Plumbing by a pump installer who is duly licensed pursuant to section 4700-I, subsection 2, except that this exception is limited to installing piping from the cold water distribution pipe at the pressure tank's main shut-off valve to the existing water supply piping as long as the piping is located in the same room as the tank, the length of the piping is no longer than 15 feet and the piping does not extend beyond any existing branches. Such plumbing must conform to the board's laws and rules. [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

2. **Municipal licenses not required.** A municipality may not require plumbers to be municipally licensed nor may any municipality issue a permit for any plumbing installation unless satisfied that the person, firm or corporation applying for the permit complies with this chapter. [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §2 (AMD).]

3. **Supervision of trainee plumber.** A master or journeyman plumber may not have more than 3 trainee plumbers working under the master or journeyman plumber's direct supervision. [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §2 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

§3303. Provisions in city charters not affected
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY
PL 1977, c. 469, §7 (RP).

§3304. Unlicensed practice

Any person who violates section 3302, subsection 1 is subject to the provisions of Title 10, section 8003-C. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §1 (NEW).]

1. Penalties.

2. Injunction.

SECTION HISTORY

§3305. Exceptions
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

SUBCHAPTER 2

REGULATIONS

§3351. Local ordinance or bylaws
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3352. Permits; fees; hearings on regulations
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3353. Law governing; local inspectors
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

SUBCHAPTER 3

EXAMINING BOARD
§3401. Membership; vacancies; removal; compensation

The Plumbers' Examining Board, as established by Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 32, consists of 5 members, who are appointed by the Governor as follows. [PL 2003, c. 446, §1 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 446, §4 (AFF).]

1. Public member. One of the members of the board must be a public member as defined in Title 5, section 12004-A. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §2 (AMD).]

2. Master plumbers. Three of the members of the board must be master plumbers as defined in section 3301, and one of those 3 members must be a member of a bona fide labor organization. [PL 2013, c. 217, Pt. F, §1 (AMD).]

3. Journeyman plumbers. [PL 2003, c. 446, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 446, §4 (AFF); MRSA T. 32 §3401, sub-§3 (RP).]


4. Local plumbing inspector. One of the members of the board must be a local plumbing inspector who has been engaged in plumbing inspections for at least 4 years and is employed by a municipality. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §2 (AMD).]

Members are appointed for terms of 4 years. Appointments of members must comply with Title 10, section 8009. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §2 (AMD).]

Any member of the board may be removed from office for cause by the Governor. [PL 2003, c. 446, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 446, §4 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY


§3402. Employees

State plumbing inspectors appointed under this section have powers throughout the several counties of the State similar to those sheriffs have in their respective counties, relating to enforcement of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter. These powers are limited to the power to issue citations, the power to serve summonses, to conduct investigations and to order corrections of violations by licensees in accordance with the specific statutory authority set forth in this chapter. If any state plumbing inspector finds any plumbing installation in any building or structure which does not comply with the adopted state plumbing code that inspector shall, with the consent of the local plumbing inspector, order that the installation be removed or remedied and that order must be complied with immediately by the owner or occupant of the premises or building or the installer of the plumbing in violation. If any state plumbing inspector finds any plumbing installation in any building or structure which creates a danger to other property or to the public, the inspector may forbid use of the building or structure by serving a written order upon the owner and the occupant, if any, to vacate within a reasonable period of time to be stated in the order. [PL 1991, c. 509, §23 (AMD).]

Any person ordered by a state plumbing inspector to correct a plumbing deficiency or to vacate a building or structure may, within 7 days, appeal to the Plumbers' Examining Board, which shall within a reasonable time review the order and file its decision on the appeal. The decision of the board must
be complied with within the time that is fixed in the decision. If any person, firm or corporation fails or refuses to carry out any such order of any state plumbing inspector or decision of the board, a court may order appropriate relief. Any person ordered by the board to correct a plumbing deficiency or to vacate a building or structure may appeal the order to the Superior Court pursuant to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80B, by filing a petition for review within 48 hours of receipt of the order. The order by the Plumbers' Examining Board may not be stayed unless by order of the Superior Court for good cause. [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §3 (AMD).]

Upon the failure of any person to carry out the final order, the Plumbers' Examining Board may petition the Superior Court for the county in which the premises or building is located from an injunction to enforce that order. If the court determines upon hearing the petition that a lawful final order was issued, it shall order compliance. [PL 1989, c. 483, Pt. A, §51 (NEW).]

In addition to any other powers, state plumbing inspectors shall have the right of entry during usual business hours to inspect any and all buildings and premises in the performance of their duties. They may enter any building only with the permission of the owner, occupant or person having control of the building or pursuant to an order of court. [PL 1989, c. 483, Pt. A, §51 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY


§3403. Meeting; chair

The board shall meet at least once a year to conduct its business and to elect a chair. Additional meetings must be held as necessary to conduct the business of the board and may be convened at the call of the chair or a majority of the board members. [PL 2013, c. 246, Pt. B, §10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY


§3403-A. Powers and duties

The board shall administer, coordinate and enforce this chapter and has the following powers and duties in addition to those otherwise set forth in this chapter. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §4 (AMD).]

1. Rules. The board may, in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2, adopt rules commensurate with the authority vested in it by this chapter. These rules may include, but not be limited to, internal plumbing, licensing requirements, examinations and reciprocity of licensing with similar boards of other states that maintain standards equivalent to this State. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §4 (AMD).]


SECTION HISTORY
§3403-B. Plumbing code

1. Plumbing and plumbing code. The board shall adopt minimum rules relating to plumbing, including a plumbing code. All rules, including installation and inspection rules, must be consistent with this chapter and Title 30-A, chapter 185, subchapter III, except that the authority of municipalities to adopt more restrictive ordinances under Title 30-A, section 3001 is not preempted. Notwithstanding the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, the adoption of a national or international published plumbing code as a new plumbing code for the State constitutes a major substantive rule and must receive affirmative action by the Legislature before adoption. Subsequent technical amendments to any national or international published plumbing code that may be adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

2. Plumbing code violations. Any person who violates the rules adopted pursuant to this section is subject to sanctions pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A and any person who violates a municipal ordinance adopted pursuant to Title 30-A, sections 4201 and 4211 must be penalized in accordance with Title 30-A, section 4452. Enforcement of the rules is the joint responsibility of the municipalities and the board. The board or a municipality may seek to enjoin violations of the rules or municipal ordinances. In the prosecution of a violation by a municipality, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees to a municipality if that municipality is the prevailing party, unless the court finds that special circumstances make the award of fees unjust.

SECTION HISTORY


§3404. Denial or refusal to renew license; disciplinary action; reinstatement

The board may deny a license, refuse to renew a license or impose the disciplinary sanctions authorized by Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A for any of the reasons enumerated in Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph A. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §5 (RPR).]

1. Fraud or deceit.

2. Negligence or misconduct.

3. Violation of law. Any violation of this chapter or any rule adopted by the board; or [PL 1983, c. 413, §144 (NEW).]

4. Conviction of crime. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chapter 341, conviction of a crime which involves dishonesty or false statement or which relates directly to the practice of plumbing, or conviction of any crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed. [PL 1983, c. 413, §144 (NEW).]

The board, for reasons it considers sufficient, may reissue a license to any person whose license has been revoked if 2 or more members of the board vote in favor of the reissuance. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §5 (RPR).]
§3405. Disposal of fees
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3406. Records
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

SUBCHAPTER 4

PLUMBING INSPECTORS

§3451. Appointment
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3452. Compensation; duties
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3453. Approving own work forbidden; additional inspector
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3454. Annual reports
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

SUBCHAPTER 5

LICENSES

§3501. Issuance of licenses

1. License required.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §6 (RP).]
1-A. Application; qualifications. The board shall issue a license to any person who files a sworn application, who passes an examination approved by the board and who meets the qualifications set forth in this section.
[PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §6 (NEW).]

2. Journeyman or limited license. The board may issue a journeyman plumber or limited plumber license to persons who submit an application on a form prescribed by the board with the required fee as set under section 3501-B and who provide satisfactory evidence of the following qualifications:

A. A minimum of at least 2 years with 4,000 hours of work in the field of plumbing installations as a licensed trainee plumber under the supervision of a master plumber, or the equivalent thereof, and obtaining a passing grade as determined by the board on the journeyman's examination; or [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §6 (AMD).]

B. A minimum of 2,000 hours of work in the field of plumbing installations as a journeyman-in-training under the supervision of a licensed master plumber, as long as the work experience is obtained within 4 years of the date upon which the applicant was issued a journeyman-in-training license. A journeyman-in-training license must be issued upon sworn application to any person who has satisfactorily completed one academic year of instruction in plumbing at a board-approved technical college or community college or in a career and technical education program approved pursuant to Title 20-A, section 8306-B as a secondary student or in a registered Department of Labor apprenticeship program and who has obtained a passing grade, as determined by the board on the journeyman's examination. [PL 2017, c. 4, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2017, c. 4, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Master plumber license. The board may issue a master plumber license to a person who submits an application on a form prescribed by the board with the required fee as set under section 3501-B and who provides satisfactory evidence of the following qualifications:

A. A minimum of at least one year with 2,000 hours of work in the field of plumbing installations as a journeyman plumber or a minimum of at least 4 years with 8,000 hours of work in the field of plumbing installations as a trainee plumber under the supervision of a master plumber, or the equivalent; and [PL 1987, c. 597, §11 (AMD).]

B. Obtaining a passing grade, as determined by the board on the master's examination. [PL 1983, c. 468, §18 (NEW).]
[PL 2003, c. 250, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

2-B. Journeyman-in-training. The board may issue a journeyman-in-training license to a person who provides satisfactory evidence of completion of a plumbing course consisting of one year or 2 semesters at a board-approved technical college or community college, in a registered Department of Labor apprenticeship program or in a career and technical education program approved pursuant to Title 20-A, section 8306-B as a secondary student and who submits the required fee set under section 3501-B and evidence of having obtained a passing grade, as determined by the board, on the journeyman's examination. A journeyman-in-training license is valid for a single nonrenewable period of 4 years and may be issued only once to any individual.
[PL 2017, c. 4, §2 (AMD).]

3. Trainee license. The board may issue a trainee plumber license without examination to any person who submits a written application on a form supplied by the board with the required fee set under section 3501-B and who provides satisfactory evidence that the person is employed by a licensed master plumber or an entity that employs a licensed master plumber or plumbers and will assist the licensed master plumber or plumbers as a trainee plumber.
[PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §5 (AMD).]
4. **License displayed.** All persons licensed by the board must receive a license that must be publicly displayed at the principal place of business of the plumber, if any, and a pocket card license that must be carried on the person and displayed at any time upon request. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §7 (AMD).]

5. **Examinations.** [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §6 (RP).]

6. **Installation, repair or replacement of well pumps.** A person licensed under this subchapter who performs the installation, repair or replacement of a pump in a well, as defined in section 4700-E, subsection 8, shall install, repair or replace that pump in compliance with the code of performance adopted by the Maine Water Well Commission pursuant to section 4700-H, subsection 5. Any person, company, firm, partnership or corporation who installs, alters, repairs or replaces a pump system without being licensed as provided in this chapter or in violation of the code of performance, except for an apprentice pump installer as set forth in this chapter, or any person, firm, partnership or corporation who procures a license as provided in this chapter wrongfully or by fraud commits a civil violation punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000.

This subsection does not prevent a person from making pump system installations, alterations, repairs or replacements in a single-family residence occupied by that person or to be occupied by that person as a bona fide personal abode, providing the installation, alteration, repair or replacement conforms to the standards set forth in this chapter and any rules adopted by the Maine Water Well Commission or the department.

This subsection does not prevent a person from removing and replacing an existing pump for the purpose of well inspection or to test pumping if the pump and electrical system are not being modified. [PL 2001, c. 209, Pt. A, §4 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**


§3501-A. **Examinations**

An applicant for a master, journeyman or journeyman-in-training plumber license shall present to the board a written application for examination, containing information that the board requires, accompanied by the prescribed fee as set under section 3501-B. Examinations must be in whole or in part in writing and of a thorough and practical character commensurate with the responsibilities of the prospective license holder. [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §6 (AMD).]

The passing grade on a master plumber license examination may not be less than 75%. The passing grade on a journeyman plumber license examination may not be less than 70%. [PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. D, §6 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**


§3501-B. **Fees**

The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation may establish by rule fees authorized under this chapter in amounts that are reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes, except that the fee for any one purpose may not exceed $350 biennially. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical

1. Application.

2. Examination.

3. Licensure.

4. Plan review fee.

SECTION HISTORY

§3502. Examination
(REPEALED)
SECTION HISTORY

§3503. Master plumbers
(REPEALED)
SECTION HISTORY

§3504. Renewals

A license expires on the date set by the commissioner pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 4 for the licensing period for which the license was issued. A license may be renewed upon receipt of an application for renewal and payment of the renewal fee as set under section 3501-B. [PL 2009, c. 241, Pt. C, §2 (RPR).]

A license may be renewed up to 90 days after the date of its expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee as set under section 3501-B. Any person who submits an application for renewal more than 90 days after the license expiration date shall pay an additional late fee as set under section 3501-B and is subject to all requirements governing new applications under this chapter, except that the board may in its discretion, giving due consideration to the protection of the public, waive examination or other requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the board shall waive examination if a renewal application is made within 90 days after separation from the United States Armed Forces, under conditions other than dishonorable, by a person who has failed to renew the person's license because the person was on active duty in the United States Armed Forces; the waiver of examination may not be granted if the person served more than 4 years in the United States Armed Forces, except if the person is required by some mandatory provision to serve a longer period and the person submits satisfactory evidence to the board. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §8 (AMD).]

All journeyman-in-training licenses are issued for a single nonrenewable period of 4 years and are not subject to the requirements of this section. [PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. O, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY
§3504-A. Reciprocity

The board shall issue a license to any person who files a sworn application and who is licensed under the laws of another state or territory of the United States as long as that state or territory has licensing standards and experience requirements at least equivalent to this State's and as long as that state or territory grants similar privileges to persons licensed under this chapter. Reciprocal licenses may not be denied on the basis of current residency. [PL 1999, c. 386, Pt. L, §11 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

§3505. Journeymen plumbers
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3505-A. Apprentice and trainee plumbers; fees
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3506. Renewal
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

§3507. Corporations, firms and partnerships
(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

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