

1-1 By: Larson, Gonzales (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 2255  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 20, 2015;  
 1-3 May 5, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Business  
 1-4 and Commerce; May 25, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable  
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;  
 1-6 May 25, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2255 By: Creighton

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the regulation of plumbing.  
 1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  
 1-23 SECTION 1. Section 1301.002, Occupations Code, is amended  
 1-24 by amending Subdivisions (1-a), (2), (3), and (4) and adding  
 1-25 Subdivision (1-b) to read as follows:  
 1-26 (1-a) "Control valve" means a valve that operates each  
 1-27 time water is supplied to, or shut off from, a receptacle or  
 1-28 plumbing fixture. The term does not include a stop valve that may be  
 1-29 installed in the water supply branch to the control valve.  
 1-30 (1-b) "Executive director" means the executive  
 1-31 director of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.  
 1-32 (2) "Drain cleaner" means a person who:  
 1-33 (A) has completed at least 4,000 hours working  
 1-34 under the supervision of a responsible master plumber as a drain  
 1-35 cleaner-restricted registrant;  
 1-36 (B) has fulfilled the requirements of and is  
 1-37 registered with the board; and  
 1-38 (C) installs cleanouts and removes and resets  
 1-39 p-traps to eliminate obstructions in building drains and sewers  
 1-40 under the supervision of a responsible master plumber.  
 1-41 (3) "Drain cleaner-restricted registrant" means a  
 1-42 person who:  
 1-43 (A) has worked as a plumber's apprentice under  
 1-44 the supervision of a responsible master plumber;  
 1-45 (B) has fulfilled the requirements of and is  
 1-46 registered with the board; and  
 1-47 (C) clears obstructions in sewer and drain lines  
 1-48 through any code-approved existing opening under the supervision of  
 1-49 a responsible master plumber.  
 1-50 (4) "Journeyman plumber" means a person licensed under  
 1-51 this chapter who:  
 1-52 (A) has met the qualifications for registration  
 1-53 as a plumber's apprentice or for licensing as a tradesman  
 1-54 plumber-limited license holder;  
 1-55 (B) has completed at least 8,000 hours working  
 1-56 under the supervision of a responsible master plumber;  
 1-57 (C) installs, changes, repairs, services, or  
 1-58 renovates plumbing or supervises any of those activities under the  
 1-59 supervision of a responsible master plumber;  
 1-60 (D) has passed the required examination; and

2-1 (E) has fulfilled the other requirements of the  
2-2 board.

2-3 SECTION 2. Section 1301.151(a), Occupations Code, is  
2-4 amended to read as follows:

2-5 (a) The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners consists of  
2-6 nine members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent  
2-7 of the senate as follows:

2-8 (1) one member who has at least 10 years' practical  
2-9 experience and is licensed as a master plumber;

2-10 (2) one member who has at least five years' practical  
2-11 experience and is licensed as a journeyman plumber;

2-12 (3) one member who has at least five years' practical  
2-13 experience and is licensed as a plumbing inspector;

2-14 (4) one member who has been a responsible master  
2-15 plumber for at least five years [is a plumbing contractor] with at  
2-16 least 10 [five] years' experience as a licensed journeyman plumber  
2-17 or master plumber;

2-18 (5) one member who is a licensed engineer practicing  
2-19 in the field of plumbing engineering;

2-20 (6) two members who are building contractors with at  
2-21 least five years' contracting experience, one of whom is  
2-22 principally engaged in home building and one of whom is principally  
2-23 engaged in commercial building; and

2-24 (7) two members who represent the public.

2-25 SECTION 3. Section 1301.202(a), Occupations Code, is  
2-26 amended to read as follows:

2-27 (a) The board shall employ one or more plumbing examiners.  
2-28 A plumbing examiner serves at the will of the board. A plumbing  
2-29 examiner must:

2-30 (1) hold a license as a plumber issued under this  
2-31 chapter;

2-32 (2) be knowledgeable of this chapter and municipal  
2-33 ordinances relating to plumbing; and

2-34 (3) be qualified by experience and training in  
2-35 plumbing practice.

2-36 SECTION 4. Section 1301.354(c), Occupations Code, is  
2-37 amended to read as follows:

2-38 (c) At the applicant's request, the board may credit an  
2-39 applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 1,000 [500] hours of the  
2-40 work experience required before taking an examination if the  
2-41 applicant has completed the classroom portion of a training  
2-42 program:

2-43 (1) approved by the United States Department of Labor,  
2-44 Office of Apprenticeship; or

2-45 (2) provided by a person approved by the board and  
2-46 based on course materials approved by the board.

2-47 SECTION 5. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply  
2-48 only to an application for a certificate of registration as a drain  
2-49 cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant submitted on or  
2-50 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a  
2-51 certificate of registration submitted before the effective date of  
2-52 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
2-53 application was submitted, and the former law is continued in  
2-54 effect for that purpose.

2-55 (b) A person who holds a certificate of registration as a  
2-56 drain cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant issued before  
2-57 the effective date of this Act may continue to renew that  
2-58 certificate of registration without complying with the changes in  
2-59 law made by this Act relating to the work requirement under the  
2-60 supervision of a responsible master plumber.

2-61 (c) The change in law made by this Act applies only to an  
2-62 application for a license as a journeyman plumber submitted on or  
2-63 after the effective date of this Act. An application for a license  
2-64 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
2-65 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the  
2-66 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-67 (d) A person who holds a license as a journeyman plumber  
2-68 issued before the effective date of this Act may continue to renew  
2-69 that license without complying with the changes in law made by this

3-1 Act relating to the work requirement under the supervision of a  
3-2 responsible master plumber.

3-3 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
3-4 1301.151(a), Occupations Code, does not affect the entitlement of a  
3-5 member serving on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners  
3-6 immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue to  
3-7 serve as a member of the board for the remainder of the member's  
3-8 term. The change in law applies only to a member appointed on or  
3-9 after the effective date of this Act.

3-10 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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