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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. **891**

02/25/2013 Authored by Fabian

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Jobs and Economic Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to commerce; licensing maintenance plumbers in certain cases;
1.3 modifying fees; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections 326B.42, by adding
1.4 a subdivision; 326B.435, subdivision 2; 326B.46, subdivisions 1, 1a; 326B.47,
1.5 subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 326B.49, subdivision 1.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.42, is amended by adding a
1.8 subdivision to read:

1.9 Subd. 3a. **Maintenance plumber.** "Maintenance plumber" means an individual
1.10 having the necessary qualifications, training, experience, and technical knowledge to
1.11 properly maintain and repair plumbing, who is licensed as a maintenance plumber by
1.12 the commissioner.

1.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2014.

1.14 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.435, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.15 Subd. 2. **Powers; duties; administrative support.** (a) The board shall have the
1.16 power to:

1.17 (1) elect its chair, vice-chair, and secretary;

1.18 (2) adopt bylaws that specify the duties of its officers, the meeting dates of the board,
1.19 and containing such other provisions as may be useful and necessary for the efficient
1.20 conduct of the business of the board;

1.21 (3) adopt the Plumbing Code that must be followed in this state and any Plumbing
1.22 Code amendments thereto. The Plumbing Code shall include the minimum standards
1.23 described in sections 326B.43, subdivision 1, and 326B.52, subdivision 1. The board

shall adopt the Plumbing Code and any amendments thereto pursuant to chapter 14 and as provided in subdivision 6, paragraphs (b), (c), and (d);

(4) review requests for final interpretations and issue final interpretations as provided in section 326B.127, subdivision 5;

(5) adopt rules that regulate the licensure, certification, or registration of plumbing contractors, journeymen, unlicensed individuals, master plumbers, restricted master plumbers, restricted journeymen, maintenance plumbers, restricted plumbing contractors, backflow prevention rebuilders and testers, water conditioning contractors, and water conditioning installers, and other persons engaged in the design, installation, and alteration of plumbing systems, engaged in the maintenance or repair of plumbing equipment, apparatus, or facilities, or engaged in or working at the business of water conditioning installation or service, or engaged in or working at the business of medical gas system installation, maintenance, or repair, except for those individuals licensed under section 326.02, subdivisions 2 and 3. The board shall adopt these rules pursuant to chapter 14 and as provided in subdivision 6, paragraphs (e) and (f);

(6) adopt rules that regulate continuing education for individuals licensed as master plumbers, journeyman plumbers, restricted master plumbers, restricted journeyman plumbers, maintenance plumbers, water conditioning contractors, and water conditioning installers, and for individuals certified under sections 326B.437 and 326B.438. The board shall adopt these rules pursuant to chapter 14 and as provided in subdivision 6, paragraphs (e) and (f);

(7) refer complaints or other communications to the commissioner, whether oral or written, as provided in subdivision 8, that allege or imply a violation of a statute, rule, or order that the commissioner has the authority to enforce pertaining to code compliance, licensure, or an offering to perform or performance of unlicensed plumbing services;

(8) approve per diem and expenses deemed necessary for its members as provided in subdivision 3;

(9) approve license reciprocity agreements;

(10) select from its members individuals to serve on any other state advisory council, board, or committee; and

(11) recommend the fees for licenses, registrations, and certifications.

Except for the powers granted to the Plumbing Board, the Board of Electricity, and the Board of High Pressure Piping Systems, the commissioner of labor and industry shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter and any rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(b) The board shall comply with section 15.0597, subdivisions 2 and 4.

(c) The commissioner shall coordinate the board's rulemaking and recommendations with the recommendations and rulemaking conducted by the other boards created pursuant to this chapter. The commissioner shall provide staff support to the board. The support includes professional, legal, technical, and clerical staff necessary to perform rulemaking and other duties assigned to the board. The commissioner of labor and industry shall supply necessary office space and supplies to assist the board in its duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2014.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.46, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **License required.** (a) No individual shall engage in or work at the business of a master plumber, restricted master plumber, journeyman plumber, ~~and restricted journeyman plumber,~~ or maintenance plumber unless licensed to do so by the commissioner. A license is not required for individuals performing building sewer or water service installation who have completed pipe laying training as prescribed by the commissioner. A master plumber may also work as a journeyman plumber, a restricted journeyman plumber, and a restricted master plumber. A journeyman plumber may also work as a restricted journeyman plumber. Anyone not so licensed may do plumbing work which complies with the provisions of the minimum standards prescribed by the Plumbing Board on premises or that part of premises owned and actually occupied by the worker as a residence, unless otherwise forbidden to do so by a local ordinance.

(b) No person shall engage in the business of planning, superintending, or installing plumbing or shall install plumbing in connection with the dealing in and selling of plumbing material and supplies unless at all times a licensed master plumber, or in cities and towns with a population of fewer than 5,000 according to the last federal census, a restricted master plumber, who shall be responsible for proper installation, is in charge of the plumbing work of the person.

(c) Except as provided in subdivision 1a, no person shall perform or offer to perform plumbing work with or without compensation unless the person obtains a contractor's license. A contractor's license does not of itself qualify its holder to perform the plumbing work authorized by holding a master, journeyman, restricted master, or restricted journeyman license.

(d) No individual shall engage in or work as a maintenance plumber unless:

(1) the individual is licensed as a maintenance plumber;

(2) the individual is engaged in the maintenance and repair of plumbing equipment, apparatus, or facilities that are within the limits of property classified for the purposes of taxation under section 273.13 as class 1c or commercial 4c(1); and

(3) the property is owned or leased by the individual or by the individual's employer.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2014.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.46, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

Subd. 1a. **Exemptions from licensing.** (a) An individual without a contractor license may do plumbing work on the individual's residence in accordance with subdivision 1, paragraph (a).

(b) An individual who is an employee working on the maintenance and repair of plumbing equipment, apparatus, or facilities owned or leased by the individual's employer and which is within the limits of property owned or leased, and operated or maintained by the individual's employer, shall not be required to maintain a contractor license as long as the employer has on file with the commissioner a current certificate of responsible individual. The responsible individual must be a master plumber or licensed maintenance plumber, or, in an area of the state that is not a city or town with a population of more than 5,000 according to the last federal census, a restricted master plumber. The certificate must be signed by the responsible individual and must state that the person signing the certificate is responsible for ensuring that the maintenance and repair work performed by the employer's employees complies with sections 326B.41 to 326B.49, all rules adopted under those sections and sections 326B.50 to 326B.59, and all orders issued under section 326B.082. The employer must pay a filing fee to file a certificate of responsible individual with the commissioner. The certificate shall expire two years from the date of filing. In order to maintain a current certificate of responsible individual, the employer must resubmit a certificate of responsible individual, with a filing fee, no later than two years from the date of the previous submittal. The filing of the certificate of responsible individual does not exempt any employee of the employer from the requirements of this chapter regarding individual licensing as a plumber or registration as an unlicensed individual.

(c) If a contractor employs a licensed plumber, the licensed plumber does not need a separate contractor license to perform plumbing work on behalf of the employer within the scope of the licensed plumber's license.

(d) A person may perform and offer to perform building sewer or water service installation without a contractor's license if the person is in compliance with the bond and insurance requirements of subdivision 2.

(e) Waterproofing contractors licensed under sections 326B.801 to 326B.89 may install in existing single-family dwellings a single sump pump, which receives subsurface or seepage water through a subsoil drain and discharges to grade. The Minnesota Plumbing

Code applies to this paragraph, including provisions relating to proper installation, use of approved materials, and proper support of the materials.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2014.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.47, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Registration; supervision; records.** (a) All unlicensed individuals, other than plumber's apprentices and individuals who have completed pipe laying training as prescribed by the commissioner, must be registered under subdivision 3.

(b) A plumber's apprentice or registered unlicensed individual is authorized to assist in the installation of plumbing only while under the direct supervision of a master, restricted master, journeyman, ~~or restricted journeyman,~~ or maintenance plumber. The master, restricted master, journeyman, ~~or restricted journeyman,~~ or maintenance plumber is responsible for ensuring that all plumbing work performed by the plumber's apprentice or registered unlicensed individual complies with the Plumbing Code. The supervising master, restricted master, journeyman, ~~or restricted journeyman,~~ or maintenance plumber must be licensed and must be employed by the same employer as the plumber's apprentice or registered unlicensed individual. Licensed individuals shall not permit plumber's apprentices or registered unlicensed individuals to perform plumbing work except under the direct supervision of an individual actually licensed to perform such work. Plumber's apprentices and registered unlicensed individuals shall not supervise the performance of plumbing work or make assignments of plumbing work to plumber's apprentices or registered unlicensed individuals.

(c) Contractors employing plumber's apprentices or registered unlicensed individuals to perform plumbing work shall maintain records establishing compliance with this subdivision that shall identify all plumber's apprentices and registered unlicensed individuals performing plumbing work, and shall permit the department to examine and copy all such records.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2014.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.47, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **Maintenance plumber exam.** Any individual who has completed four years of practical plumbing experience or four years of experience in maintenance and repair of plumbing equipment, apparatus, or facilities is eligible to take the maintenance plumber's examination. The Plumbing Board may adopt rules to evaluate whether the

6.1 individual's plumbing experience is applicable in preparing for the maintenance plumber's
6.2 examination.

6.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2014.

6.4 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 326B.49, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.5 Subdivision 1. **Application, examination, and license fees.** (a) Applications
6.6 for master ~~and~~ journeyman, and maintenance plumber's licenses shall be made to the
6.7 commissioner, with all fees required by section 326B.092. Unless the applicant is entitled
6.8 to a renewal, the applicant shall be licensed by the commissioner only after passing
6.9 a satisfactory examination developed and administered by the commissioner, based
6.10 upon rules adopted by the Plumbing Board, showing fitness. Until the Plumbing Board
6.11 adopts rules regarding the fitness of applicants for a maintenance plumber's license, the
6.12 commissioner shall develop and administer an examination designed to show that the
6.13 applicant has the qualifications, training, experience, and technical knowledge needed
6.14 to properly maintain and repair plumbing, as determined at the sole discretion of the
6.15 commissioner.

6.16 (b) All initial journeyman and maintenance plumber's licenses shall be effective for
6.17 more than one calendar year and shall expire on December 31 of the year after the year in
6.18 which the application is made. All master plumber's licenses shall expire on December 31
6.19 of each even-numbered year after issuance or renewal. All renewed maintenance plumber's
6.20 licenses shall be two-year licenses. The commissioner shall in a manner determined by the
6.21 commissioner, without the need for any rulemaking under chapter 14, phase in the renewal
6.22 of master and journeyman plumber's licenses from one year to two years. By June 30,
6.23 2011, all renewed master and journeyman plumber's licenses shall be two-year licenses.

6.24 (c) Applications for contractor licenses shall be made to the commissioner, with all
6.25 fees required by section 326B.092. All contractor licenses shall expire on December 31 of
6.26 each odd-numbered year after issuance or renewal.

6.27 (d) For purposes of calculating license fees and renewal license fees required under
6.28 section 326B.092:

6.29 (1) the following licenses shall be considered business licenses: plumbing contractor
6.30 and restricted plumbing contractor;

6.31 (2) the following licenses shall be considered master licenses: master plumber and
6.32 restricted master plumber;

6.33 (3) the following licenses shall be considered journeyman licenses: journeyman
6.34 plumber ~~and~~ restricted journeyman plumber, and maintenance plumber; and

7.1 (4) the registration of an unlicensed individual under section 326B.47, subdivision 3,
7.2 shall be considered an entry level license.

7.3 (e) For each filing of a certificate of responsible individual by an employer, the fee is
7.4 \$100, except that the fee under this section for a maintenance plumber is \$40.

7.5 (f) The commissioner shall charge each person giving bond under section 326B.46,
7.6 subdivision 2, paragraph (b), a biennial bond filing fee of \$100, unless the person is a
7.7 licensed contractor.

7.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2014.