



# TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS

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May 29, 2019

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **Re: Abolishment of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners ("Board"); Official Statement from the Office of the Executive Director.**

❖ Pursuant to Section 1301.003 of the Texas Occupations Code, the Board is subject to the Sunset Act, and unless legislative action is taken, the Board is abolished, and Chapter 1301 of the Occupations Code ("Plumbing License Law" or "PLL") expires, effective September 1, 2019.

❖ The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended transferring administration and enforcement of the PLL to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation ("TDLR"). This recommendation was included in Senate Bill 621 ("SB621") during the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session.

❖ On May 27, 2019, the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, finally adjourned, and the Legislature took no action to amend the Sunset Act provisions of the Plumbing License Law. As a result, the recommended transfer of the regulation of plumbing to TDLR did not occur, and the Board is set to be abolished as required by statute.

❖ As a result, **effective September 1, 2019 the Board is abolished, and all requirements of the Plumbing License Law will cease to apply.**

❖ **While the Board is abolished, it will continue to exist until no later than September 1, 2020 for purposes of concluding its business and "winding down" its operations.**

❖ Given the Legislature is no longer in session, any potential legislative action to avoid abolishment of the Board would have to take place in a special session called by Governor Abbott, in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Texas Constitution.

❖ **On and after September 1, 2019, the Board will cease to issue new licenses, or renew licenses and registrations.** Licensees and registrants up for renewal prior to that date might be tempted to avoid renewal and the renewal fee. Similarly, examinees who have successfully passed an examination and are considering whether to pay for their initial license may be considering avoiding the license and the applicable fee. However, a license or registration is still required prior to September 1, 2019 to comply with the PLL. Additionally, the Board is considering establishing a final database and roster of its licensees and registrants for historical purposes, which may be public facing and searchable even after the Board ceases operations. Individuals who wish to be included in that final roster should ensure their license or registration is current on August 31, 2019. Even beyond the anticipated abolishment of the PLL, license holders may find value in touting their previous licensure with the Board in advertising for plumbing work. Previous licensure by the Board may also become useful and may assist an individual in qualifying for licensure or otherwise meeting the requirements of a municipality, county, or other political subdivision regulating plumbing.

❖ Among its other duties during the “wind down” period, the Board intends to offer verifications of licensure upon request, which will document and evidence the individual’s license history with the Board, and may be useful in qualifying for licensure by a political subdivision of this state, or of another state. Interested individuals should make their request during the “wind down” period, or on or after September 1, 2019.

❖ **The Board will continue to administer examinations and issue licenses through August 31, 2019. However, examinations are already scheduled through that date. Taking the foregoing into consideration, effective immediately, and until further notice, the Board is no longer accepting applications to take the Tradesman Plumber-Limited, Journeyman Plumber, Master Plumber and Plumbing Inspector examinations, and all applications for license and registration endorsements.**

❖ Individuals already scheduled for an examination on or after September 1, 2019 will be placed on a “stand-by” list and offered examination roster positions prior to September 1, 2019 as they become available. Alternatively, individuals scheduled for an examination on or after September 1, 2019 may cancel their examination and seek a refund of their examination fee.

❖ Through August 31, 2019, the Board will continue to register individuals as Plumber's Apprentices.

❖ **On and after September 1, 2019, an individual does not need to be licensed by or registered with the Board to contract for, or perform, plumbing under state law.**

❖ Before that date, all current requirements of the PLL apply, and the Board will be actively administering and enforcing the PLL until September 1, 2019.

❖ During the "wind down" period (lasting until no later than September 1, 2020), the Board retains authority to prosecute violations of the Plumbing License Law occurring prior to September 1, 2019.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, commercial general liability insurance will no longer be required under state law in order to operate a plumbing company.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, there will be no state requirement for continuing education classes needed to renew a license or registration. However, the Board anticipates that Continuing Education Providers will offer classes to renew the license or registration until August 31, 2019. Licensees should contact the providers directly with questions regarding classes.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, requirements of the PLL pertaining to municipalities and other political subdivisions will not apply, including provisions governing the issuance of permits, and restrictions on amendments to adopted plumbing codes.

❖ Other than statutory requirements which exist outside of the PLL, upon the expiration of the Plumbing License Law, regulation of plumbing will largely fall to municipalities, counties, and special districts to administer. The local authority having jurisdiction will determine any permitting and inspection requirements, including the qualifications of individuals performing plumbing inspections.

Sincerely,



Lisa G. Hill  
Executive Director