

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
84R9744 TSR-F

H.B. 2255  
By: Larson; Gonzales, Larry (Creighton)  
Business & Commerce  
5/20/2015  
Engrossed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

According to interested parties, the average age of a master plumber in Texas is 56 years. The parties also note that businesses in Texas are finding it increasingly difficult to hire and maintain qualified, licensed plumbers because of a shortage of capable labor in this trade. The parties assert that, while the aging of the workforce is a contributing factor in this labor shortage, the shortage is compounded by current requirements regarding the number of supervised hours required for eligibility to take the examination for a journeyman plumber or tradesman plumber-limited license, which the parties see as an impediment to entry into and advancement within the trade for potential applicants. H.B. 2255 seeks to help alleviate this workforce shortage.

H.B. 2255 amends current law relating to the regulation of plumbing.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 1301.002(2), (3), and (4), Occupations Code, to redefine "drain cleaner," "drain cleaner-restricted registrant," and "journeyman plumber" by providing that each person has worked under the supervision of a responsible master plumber for a certain amount of time or has met certain criteria set forth.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 1301.354(c), Occupations Code, by authorizing the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, at the applicant's request, to credit an applicant under Subsection (b) with up to 1,000, rather than 500, hours of the work experience required before taking an examination if the applicant has completed the classroom portion of a training program that meets certain criteria set forth in this subsection.

SECTION 3. (a) Provides that the changes in law made by this Act apply only to an application for a certificate of registration as a drain cleaner or drain cleaner-restricted registrant submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. Provides that an application for a certificate of registration submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

(c) Provides that the change in law made by this Act applies only to an application for a license as a journeyman plumber submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. Provides that an application for a license submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(d) Authorizes a person who holds a license as a journeyman plumber issued before the effective date of this Act to continue to renew that license without complying with the changes in law made by this Act relating to the work requirement under the supervision of a responsible master plumber.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2015.