

---

SENATE BILL 5957

---

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Hewitt and McCaslin

Read first time 02/09/2001. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Financial Institutions.

1 AN ACT Relating to specialty plumbing; and amending RCW 18.106.010,  
2 18.106.040, 18.106.050, 18.27.070, 18.106.125, and 18.106.130.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.106.010 and 1997 c 326 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, the  
7 following words and phrases as hereinafter used in this chapter shall  
8 have the following meaning:

9 (1) "Advisory board" means the state advisory board of plumbers;

10 (2) "Department" means the department of labor and industries;

11 (3) "Director" means the director of department of labor and  
12 industries;

13 (4) "Journeyman plumber" means any person who has been issued a  
14 certificate of competency by the department of labor and industries as  
15 provided in this chapter;

16 (5) "Medical gas piping" means oxygen, nitrous oxide, high pressure  
17 nitrogen, medical compressed air, and medical vacuum systems;

18 (6) "Medical gas piping installer" means a journeyman plumber who  
19 has been issued a medical gas piping installer endorsement;

1 (7) "Plumbing" means that craft involved in installing, altering,  
2 repairing and renovating potable water systems, liquid waste systems,  
3 and medical gas piping systems within a building. Installation in a  
4 water system of water softening or water treatment equipment is not  
5 within the meaning of plumbing as used in this chapter;

6 (8) "Specialty plumber" means anyone who has been issued a  
7 specialty certificate of competency limited to:

8 (a) Installation, maintenance, and repair of the plumbing of  
9 single-family dwellings, duplexes, and apartment buildings that do not  
10 exceed three stories;

11 (b) In-line maintenance and repair of backflow prevention  
12 assemblies within buildings; or

13 (c) Other plumbing as determined by the department, with the advice  
14 of the advisory board.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.106.040 and 1977 ex.s. c 149 s 4 are each amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) Upon receipt of the application and evidence set forth in RCW  
18 18.106.030, the director shall review the same and make a determination  
19 as to whether the applicant is eligible to take an examination for the  
20 certificate of competency. To be eligible to take the examination:

21 (a) Each applicant for a journeyman plumber's certificate of  
22 competency shall furnish written evidence that he or she:

23 (i) Has ((either)) completed a course of study in the plumbing  
24 trade in the armed services of the United States or at a school  
25 accredited by the coordinating council on occupational education; or  
26 ((that he))

27 (ii) Has had four or more years of experience under the direct  
28 supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber.

29 (b) Each applicant for a specialty plumber's certificate of  
30 competency shall furnish written evidence that he or she:

31 (i) Has ((either)) completed a course of study in the plumbing  
32 trade in the armed services of the United States ((or at a school  
33 accredited by the commission for vocational education or its designee,  
34 or that he));

35 (ii) Has had at least three years practical experience in ((his))  
36 the specialty; or

37 (iii) Meets other requirements of eligibility as determined by the  
38 department, with the advice of the advisory board.

1        (c) Each applicant for a backflow prevention assembly repair  
2 specialty plumber's certificate of competency shall furnish written  
3 evidence that he or she:

4        (i) Is certified as a backflow assembly tester by the department of  
5 health; and

6        (ii) Meets other requirements of eligibility as determined by the  
7 department, with the advice of the advisory board.

8        (2) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

9        (3) The director shall establish reasonable rules and regulations  
10 for the examinations to be given applicants for certificates of  
11 competency. In establishing said rules, regulations, and criteria, the  
12 director shall consult with the state advisory board of plumbers as  
13 established in RCW 18.106.110.

14        (4) Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the  
15 examination, the director shall so notify ((him)) the applicant,  
16 indicating the time and place for taking the same.

17        **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.106.050 and 1997 c 326 s 5 are each amended to read  
18 as follows:

19        (1) The department may establish, with the advice of the advisory  
20 board, certificates of competency for specialty plumbers.

21        (2) The department, with the advice of the advisory board, shall  
22 prepare a written examination to be administered to applicants for  
23 certificates of competency for journeyman plumber and specialty  
24 plumber. The examination shall be constructed to determine:

25        (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general knowledge of the  
26 technical information and practical procedures that are identified with  
27 the trade of journeyman plumber or specialty plumber; and

28        (b) Whether the applicant is familiar with the applicable plumbing  
29 codes and the administrative rules of the department pertaining to  
30 plumbing and plumbers.

31        (3) The department shall administer the examination to eligible  
32 persons. All applicants shall, before taking the examination, pay to  
33 the department a fee.

34        ~~((+2))~~ (4) For purposes of the medical gas piping installer  
35 endorsement, the department may enter into a contract with a nationally  
36 recognized testing agency to develop, administer, and score medical gas  
37 piping installer examinations. All applicants shall, before taking an  
38 examination for a medical gas piping installer endorsement, pay the

1 required examination fee. The department shall set the examination fee  
2 by contract with a nationally recognized testing agency. The fee shall  
3 cover but not exceed the costs of preparing and administering the  
4 examination and the materials necessary to conduct the practical  
5 elements of the examination. The department shall approve training  
6 courses and set the fees for training courses for the medical gas  
7 piping installer endorsement.

8 The department shall certify the results of the examination, and  
9 shall notify the applicant in writing whether he or she has passed or  
10 failed. Any applicant who has failed the examination may retake the  
11 examination, upon the terms and after a period of time that the  
12 director shall set by rule. The director may not limit the number of  
13 times that a person may take the examination.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 18.27.070 and 1997 c 314 s 7 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 The department shall charge fees for issuance, renewal, and  
17 reinstatement of certificates of registration; and changes of name,  
18 address, or business structure. The department shall set the fees by  
19 rule.

20 Except as provided in RCW 18.106.130, the entire amount of the fees  
21 are to be used solely to cover the full cost of issuing certificates,  
22 filing papers and notices, and administering and enforcing this  
23 chapter. The costs shall include reproduction, travel, per diem, and  
24 administrative and legal support costs.

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 18.106.125 and 1983 c 124 s 17 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 The department shall charge fees for issuance, renewal, and  
28 reinstatement of all certificates and permits and for examinations  
29 required by this chapter. The department shall set the fees by rule.

30 The fees charged under this section and the fees charged for  
31 certificates of registration for specialty plumbing contractors under  
32 chapter 18.27 RCW shall cover the full cost of issuing the certificates  
33 and permits, devising and administering the examinations, and  
34 administering and enforcing this chapter. The costs shall include  
35 travel, per diem, and administrative support costs.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 18.106.130 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 175 s 13 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       All moneys received from certificates of competency, permits, or  
4 other sources(~~(7)~~) under this chapter and from certificates of  
5 registration for specialty plumbing contractors under chapter 18.27 RCW  
6 shall be paid to the state treasurer as ex officio custodian thereof  
7 and (~~by him~~) placed in a special fund designated as the "plumbing  
8 certificate fund". (~~He~~) The treasurer shall pay out upon vouchers  
9 duly and regularly issued therefor and approved by the director. The  
10 treasurer shall keep an accurate record of payments into (~~said~~) the  
11 fund, and of all disbursement therefrom. (~~Said~~) The fund shall be  
12 charged with its pro rata share of the cost of administering (~~said~~)  
13 the fund.

--- END ---