

SENATE BILL NO. 460

INTRODUCED BY J. ESP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS BY ALLOWING A JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER NOT EMPLOYED BY A LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER TO PERFORM RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING WORK; ALLOWING A JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER TO CONDUCT OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING WORK; DEFINING "RESIDENTIAL PLUMBING WORK"; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 37-69-101 AND 37-69-304, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 37-69-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"37-69-101. Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Board" means the board of plumbers provided for in 2-15-1765.
- (2) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15, part 17.
- (3) "Drainage system" means all the piping inside the walls of a building that conveys sewage or other liquid wastes outside the building to the building sewer but that does not extend more than 2 feet outside the building way.
- (4) "Field of plumbing" means the business, trade, or work having to do with the installation, removal, alteration, or repair of plumbing and drainage systems or parts of plumbing and drainage systems.
- (5) "Journeyman plumber" means a person who is authorized to make installation of all sanitary plumbing and potable water supply piping and appliances connected to the plumbing and piping and who is subject to the restrictions on authority provided in 37-69-304.
- (6) "Master plumber" means a person who is authorized by this chapter to plan, estimate, bid, contract for, and supervise plumbing work and who may do the work of a journeyman plumber.
- (7) (a) "Plumbing system" means all potable water supply and distribution pipes, plumbing fixtures and traps, drainage and vent pipes, and building drains, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptacles, and appurtenances within the property lines of any premises, up to 20 feet beyond the building foundation line, and includes potable water piping, water heaters, and vents for the premises.

1 (b) The term does not include water services installed and maintained by water districts or water user
2 associations in which water service is installed by any qualified person appointed or hired by the administrative
3 authority of the water system.

4 (8) "Public sewer system" means any common sewer carrying liquid wastes from two or more dwellings
5 or any other facility that serves the public.

6 (9) "Public water supply" means any community well, water hauler for cisterns, water bottling plant, water
7 dispenser, or other water supply that serves 10 or more families or 25 or more persons on a regular and
8 continuous basis.

9 (10) "Residential plumbing work" means plumbing work done on a single-family dwelling."

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11 **Section 2.** Section 37-69-304, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"37-69-304. Qualifications of applicants for journeyman plumber's license -- restriction on**
13 **authority.** (1) The following requirements must be met by applicants for a journeyman plumber's license:

14 (a) a specific record of 5 years of legally obtained experience in the field of plumbing. This experience
15 requirement may be fulfilled by working 5 years in a major phase of the plumbing business, verified by time or
16 pay records, or by completing an apprenticeship program meeting the standards set by the department or the
17 United States department of labor, bureau of apprenticeship, or credit towards this experience requirement may
18 be given for time spent attending an accredited trade or other school specializing in training of value in the field
19 of plumbing and approved by the board.

20 (b) satisfactory completion of an examination prescribed by the board conducted by the department,
21 subject to 37-1-101(4), testing the applicant's knowledge of techniques and methods employed in the field of
22 plumbing and establishing by practical demonstration competence in the special skills required in the field of
23 plumbing.

24 (2) A licensed journeyman plumber may perform work only in the employment of a licensed master
25 plumber unless:

26 (a) the journeyman plumber is performing only residential plumbing work; or

27 (b) otherwise permitted by rule of the board.

28 (3) A journeyman plumber may plan, estimate, bid, and contract for only residential plumbing work."

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