

Plumbing Board
Licensing and Registration Committee Minutes
May 7, 2008
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul 55155
DLI.CCLDBOARDS@State.MN.US

Members Present:

Jim Gander
John A. Parizek
Rebecca Ames
Paul Sullwold
Randy Ellingboe

Members Absent:

None

Visitors:

Matthew Marciniak

Staff Present:

Annette Trnka
Jim Peterson

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Gander at 10:04 a.m. Introductions followed.

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Chair Gander asked if there were any objections to the Agenda. Hearing none, Gander declared the Agenda approved.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

There are no previous Minutes for approval.

IV. Regular Business

- A. Schedule. Chair Gander stated that he anticipates two or three meetings of the Licensing and Registration Committee, at which point all issues should be addressed and resolved.

V. Special Business

- A. Purpose of the Committee
- B. Request For Comments on plumber license/apprentice registration issues.
(Signed 3-24-08.)
- C. Issues to discuss

- i. Restricted master and restricted journeyman plumber eligibility for examination. Ellingboe stated that last year the Legislature created two new classes of licensure (Restricted Master Plumber and Restricted Journeyman Plumber) and those licenses allow people contracted for plumbing to work in all areas of the State, except cities of 5,000 or more in population. One of the things he feels should be considered is whether there should be Rule language regarding if those people with restricted licenses could qualify to take the examination for the unrestricted license. Gander stated that currently, someone licensed as a restricted journeyman plumber can keep that status forever, as long as they continue to renew their license. However, once it lapses past October 1, 2008, you cannot reapply.

Parizek asked if House File 2805 was signed by the Governor. Ellingboe stated that as of May 6, it had not yet been signed. Ellingboe stated that language in House File 2805 extended the deadline to apply for the restricted journeyman and restricted master license to October 1, 2008. The qualifications to apply for those licenses changed slightly compared to last year. In order to apply for the restricted master license, you either have to have four years of practical plumbing experience or two years as a plumbing contractor. To apply for the restricted journeyman license, it requires two years of practical plumbing experience.

Ellingboe stated there is currently no language in Rules that lay out how a restricted plumber could qualify to work as an unrestricted plumber. Gander asked if DLI staff is favorable to have unrestricted plumbers take the exam. Ellingboe stated that staff has no opinion and it would be up to the discretion of the Board. He said a question for the Board would be if they want to add language that would set forth how a restricted plumber could qualify to take the exam to be an unrestricted plumber that could work anywhere in the State.

Gander stated concerns about those restricted licensees who work as service or maintenance workers, and aren't doing full-time plumbing work.

Ames added that she would like to see education requirements added to the requirements before a restricted licensee could apply for an unrestricted license.

Gander suggested including language regarding "primary occupation, with experience of a minimum of four years." He also suggested language which would set out a time span of which you must take the unrestricted license exam (for example within 2-4 years.) Jim Peterson stated that right now, if a registered apprentice fails to take

the exam two years after getting their required 7,000 hours, they still have to continue to register as an apprentice, but they lose credit for their hours.

Matt Marciniak asked about apprentices taking a minimum amount of schooling. Gander replied that Minnesota doesn't have any education requirements now. The Legislators have restricted the Board's authority regarding education.

Gander suggested three requirements for taking the unrestricted exam while holding a restricted license could be: After two years of unrestricted license, they would be able to take the test, with a minimum amount of hours of experience) and include language regarding:

- a. Primary occupation
- b. Hours of experience in various areas of the Trade
- c. A window of time in which to take the exam, or they lose their accumulated hours and have to start over.

Gander stated he would work with DLI staff to develop language to be able to present to the Board on these issues.

- ii. Rule language on fees. Ellingboe stated that because the language on fees is in Statute, it's redundant to have the language on fees in the Rules. Sullwold made a motion, seconded by Parizek to remove the language from the Rule (Code) regarding fees. Rules affected are 4715.3150, 4715.3160, and 4715.3170. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.
- iii. Miscellaneous

D. Legislative issues

VI. Committee Discussion

Gander asked if the Plumbing Board could take on some of the demands of the exams, and have input on the way the exams are put together. Peterson stated that he thinks that the Board should take a look at the exam and give an opinion on what the Board feels should be added to the exam. Ellingboe stated he felt the Committee should first look at the exam. Parizek stated that he agreed, that the Committee should review the exam and make any recommendations to the Board.

The Committee then discussed the happening of apprentices not being able to get the contractor sign the verification of time. Perhaps there should be a caveat on stating the apprentice cannot work for the contractor, unless the apprentice's hours are verified by the contractor.

VII. Open Forum

There were no requests for Open Forum.

VIII. Announcements

A. Next Regularly Schedule Meeting

- i. June 11, 2008, 9:30 a.m. – Minnesota Room, DLI (Cancelled)

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Parizek, seconded by Sullwold to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Gander

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