Texas Plumbing License Law & Board

What’s Next??

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• Plumbing License Law - Who stands to lose something?

• Plumbers – lose sense of accomplishment and measurement of skill
• Contractors – lose “measuring stick” of the skills and experience of future employees
• State – Loss of Revenue AND loss of standard of protection for Citizens
• City/Town/Political Subdivision – lose the ability to gauge who meets a minimum standard for installation of plumbing in their jurisdiction
• Homeowner/Business owner- lose the ability to know who is qualified and safe to invite in their home or business to install/repair plumbing
• Cont’d Ed Providers and Trainers- Loss of income
Options to Fix?

• Governor stated he has “tools in his toolbox” to fix this, no one sure at this point what that tool is…
• Cities/Town/Political Subdivisions/Counties will pick up responsibility to license Plumbers
• A third party can offer a certification program (ICC, IAPMO, etc) but what about practical “hands-on” testing that has been the standard for 72 years in Texas?
• Plumbing Industry can partner up to regulate itself?
Texas Plumbing Certification Cooperative

• Industry steps up and fills the void created by closure of the Plumbing Board by creating Texas Plumbing Certification Cooperative (TPCC)
• TPCC maintains database of existing State Licensee’s and incorporates all future Certified/Licensed Plumbers and Apprentices
• TPCC creates “template” Plumbing License Ordinance to provide to Cities for adoption, Cities recognize TPCC as source of qualified Plumber Certification
• TPCC mirrors Plumbing Board requirements for written and practical testing requirements, and continuing education requirements
TPCC – What is it?

• Central Database and location with Executive Director and office employees for maintaining database

• Testing locations throughout the State for written and practical exam-Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, El Paso, Lubbock and Corpus Christi utilizing existing United Association Training Centers

• Plumbing Certification tests to be done using the ASSE (American Society of Sanitary Engineers) Platform, http://www.asse-plumbing.org/

• ASSE is a 113 year old organization that certifies both products and people in the Plumbing Industry
TPCC and ASSE

• TPPC would contract with ASSE to create Certifications for Plumbers based on existing License classifications: Master, Journeyman, Tradesman and Apprentice along with the endorsements for Medical Gas and others as needed

• TPCC will recognize and “Grandfather” all current licensee’s of TSBPE as of 8/31/2019 into ASSE Certifications

• ASSE Plumber Certification tests based on BOTH recognized Plumbing Codes to avoid preference to one Code or another (similar to current State Law)
TPCC – The solution to a problem

• Cities/Towns that cannot afford to create a licensing program have a recognized entity to look to for who is qualified

• Larger Cities CAN create a program and make money from fees BUT there will be issues with consistency of testing requirements AND the issue of reciprocation of licenses/certifications across the State

• Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors want the ability to go from one jurisdiction to another without additional testing and fee requirements
TPCC Fees & Rules

• NO COST to Cities for utilizing TPCC, BUT they have to adopt template ordinance to recognize TPCC as the recognized authority for who is qualified to contract and install plumbing in their jurisdiction

• Plumbers pay ONE annual fee to TPCC to maintain renewal of their certification (similar to TSBPE process) along with continuing education requirements

• TPCC is the recognized source for Certification, but not enforcement of the Plumbing License rules that Cities adopt, that falls back to the local jurisdiction

• TPCC uses mandatory background check system for all applicants, along with rules for certification issuance similar to TSBPE and State guidelines
TPCC satisfies all interested parties

• Plumbers get their “measuring stick” back: TPCC determines who meets the qualified standard for plumbing installations
• Contractors have a gauge for qualified labor
• State and Cities have a source for certified plumbers that meet a defined skill level and background clearance to protect the Citizens of Texas
• Citizen/Homeowner/Business Owners have confidence that if they use a TPCC Certified Plumber they have met a minimum standard and background requirement for the installation of Plumbing Systems
• Cont’d Education Providers continue to have classes and charge their fees educating the Certified Plumbers