

**NOTICE OF INTENT**  
**Workforce Commission**  
**Plumbing Board**

Plumbers—Introductory Information; Licenses;  
Revocation and Related Administration Proceedings;  
Continuing Professional Education Programs  
(LAC 46:LV.101, 301, 303, 307, 308, 309,  
310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 901, and 1002)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953, the Louisiana State Plumbing Board (board), hereby determines that implementation of amendments to LAC 46:LV.101, 301, 303, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 901, and 1002 is necessary to be in compliance with recent legislative changes designated as Act No. 297 of 2016. The proposed Rule change establishes the designation of gas fitter and master gas fitter and will also provide licensing requirements and procedures relative to gas fitter and master gas fitter classifications, effective January 1, 2017. The addition of this classification resulted in the number change for rules formerly numbered as §§307-313. These adjustments will be effective upon final publication in the *Louisiana Register*.

Please refer to the corresponding Emergency Rule printed in this edition of the *Louisiana Register* to view these amendments.

**Family Impact Statement**

1. Estimated effect on the stability of the family? There is no estimated effect on the stability of the family.
2. Estimated effect on the authority and rights of parents regarding the education and supervision of their children? There is no estimated effect on the authority and rights of parents regarding the education and supervision of their children.
3. Estimated effect on the functioning of the family? There is no estimated effect on the functioning of the family.
4. Estimated effect on family earnings and family budget? There is no estimated effect on family earnings and family budget.
5. Estimated effect on the behavior and personal responsibility of children? There is no estimated effect on the behavior and personal responsibility of children.
6. Estimated effect on the ability of the family or a local government to perform the function as contained in the proposed Rule? There is no estimated effect on the ability of the family or a local government to perform the function as contained in the proposed Rule.

**Poverty Impact Statement**

The proposed amended Rule will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

**Small Business Analysis**

The proposed amended Rule will have no adverse impact on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**Provider Impact Statement**

The proposed amended rule is not anticipated to have any impact on providers of services funded by the state as described in HCR 170 of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session.

**Public Comments**

Any interested person may submit written comments regarding the content of this proposed Rule change to James

Finley, Chairman of the Board, 11304 Cloverdale Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA no later than 5 p.m., February 20, 2017.

James Finley  
Chairman

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**  
**RULE TITLE: Plumbers—Introductory**  
**Information; Licenses; Revocation and Related**  
**Administration Proceedings; Continuing**  
**Professional Education Programs**

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

This rule proposes to enact and amend Sections 101, 301, 303, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 901, and 1002 of the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 46, Part LV – Plumbers. In accordance with Act 297 of 2016, the LA State Plumbing Board is adjusting the plumbing code to incorporate examination, licensing and continuing education requirements of Gas Fitter and Master Gas Fitter.

Section 101 adds definitions related to gas fitters. Sections 301, 303, 307 and 308 enact new licensing requirements of gas fitters including the application and examination process. Sections 309-315 are technical changes related to numbering. Section 311 enacts fees and charges of the Plumbing Board relative to gas fitters. Section 901 adds gas fitters to the current revocation, suspension and probation procedures of plumbers. Finally, Section 1002 enacts continuing education requirements and course provider standards for gas fitters.

In FY 17, the Plumbing Board anticipates implementation costs of \$49,312 associated with licensing of Gas Fitters and Master Gas Fitters. In subsequent fiscal years, the board anticipates costs of \$20,360. Licensing fees will cover these costs.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The Plumbing Board anticipates revenue collection of \$492,000 in licensing fees authorized by Act 297 of 2016. Approximately 3,600 journeyman plumbers are estimated to seek licenses as a gas fitter (\$144,000 = 3,600 x \$40). Approximately 1,800 master plumbers are estimated to seek licenses as master gas fitters (\$324,000 = 1,800 x \$180). In addition, approximately 600 persons, primarily heater, air conditioning and ventilation (HVAC) contractors, are estimated to seek licensing as regulated gas fitters (\$24,000 = 600 x \$40). The board expects revenue collections to remain constant in future fiscal years.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

Licensing fees will impact an estimated 6,000 individuals and/or their employing entities engaged in the business of gas fitting.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The Plumbing Board anticipates the implementation of new licensing requirements for gas fitters will enhance competition as a result of issuing licenses as well as provide statewide regulation of an important aspect of the plumbing industry. To the extent that 100% of plumbers referenced in this rule do not seek a gas fitter license, this rule may result in a decrease in competition. Also the board anticipates this rule will promote development of quality private sector training and certification program.

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