

# HOUSE BILL 5

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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Labor, Licensing and Regulation)**

Requested: November 7, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **State Board of Plumbing – Continuing Professional Competency – Master Plumbers and Master Natural Gas Fitters**

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Plumbing to adopt regulations to require under certain circumstances a certain demonstration of professional competency as a condition of renewal of a master plumber or master natural gas fitters license; providing for implementation of the continuing professional competency program on a phased-in basis; requiring the Board to convene a certain advisory workgroup prior to proposing certain regulations; and generally relating to master plumber and master natural gas fitters licenses issued by the State Board of Plumbing.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
Section 12-308  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

12-308.

(a) Subject to § 12-308.1 of this subtitle, unless a license is renewed for a 2-year term as provided in this section, the license expires on the first May 1 that comes:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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- (1) after the effective date of the license; and
- (2) in an odd-numbered year.

(b) At least 1 month before a license expires, the Board shall mail to the licensee, at the last known address of the licensee:

- (1) a renewal application form; and
- (2) a notice that states:
  - (i) the date on which the current license expires;
  - (ii) the date by which the Board must receive the renewal application for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires; and
  - (iii) the amount of the renewal fee.

(c) Before a license expires, the licensee may renew it for an additional 2-year term, if the licensee:

- (1) otherwise is entitled to be licensed;
- (2) pays to the Board a renewal fee of:
  - (i) \$70 for a master plumber license or a limited master plumber license;
  - (ii) \$35 for a journey plumber license or a limited journey plumber license;
  - (iii) \$15 for an apprentice plumber license or apprentice natural gas fitters license;
  - (iv) \$35 for a propane gas fitter certificate;
  - (v) \$35 for a master natural gas fitters license; or
  - (vi) \$25 for a journeyman natural gas fitters license; and
- (3) submits to the Board:
  - (i) if contracting in the name of the licensee or another person to provide plumbing services, proof of the liability insurance required under § 12-501 of this title; and
  - (ii) a renewal application on the form that the Board provides.

(d) The Board shall renew the license of and issue a renewal certificate to each licensee who meets the requirements of this section.

(e) The Secretary may determine that licenses and certificates issued under this subtitle shall expire on a staggered basis.

**(F) (1) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE A DEMONSTRATION OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY OF 8 EDUCATIONAL HOURS FOR A MASTER PLUMBER OR MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTER AS A CONDITION OF RENEWAL OF A MASTER PLUMBER OR MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

**(2) CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY TO THE FIRST RENEWAL OF A LICENSE.**

**(3) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, A LICENSEE IS NOT REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS.**

**(4) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, A LICENSEE IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL 50% OF THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

**(5) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2017, A LICENSEE IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE FULL CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, prior to proposing regulations, the State Board of Plumbing shall convene a workgroup with interested stakeholders to act in an advisory capacity in the development of provisions regarding subject matter, approved providers, and other issues related to continuing professional competency.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.