

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 699

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike "and" and substitute a comma; in line 4, after "license" insert ", and an apprentice natural gas fitters license"; and in line 19, strike "12-303" and substitute "12-304".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 10, after "12-101(L)" insert ", (M), OR (N)"; after line 13, insert:

"(B) "APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTER" MEANS, UNLESS THE CONTEXT REQUIRES OTHERWISE, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED BY THE BOARD TO ASSIST A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTER IN PROVIDING NATURAL GAS SERVICES WHILE:

(1) UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTER; AND

(2) IN TRAINING TO BECOME A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTER."

and in lines 14, 20, 21, 23, 25, and 29, strike "(b)", "(c)", "(d)", "(e)", "(f)", and "(G)", respectively, and substitute "(C)", "(D)", "(E)", "(F)", "(G)", and "(H)", respectively.

On page 3, in line 14, strike "AND"; in line 15, after "LICENSE" insert "; AND

(VIII) AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE";

in line 27, strike the period and substitute "AND NATURAL GAS SERVICES."

(Over)

(2) “MASTER PLUMBER” INCLUDES A MASTER PLUMBER GAS FITTER.”;

and in lines 1, 16, 23, and 26, strike “(H)”, “(I)”, “(J)”, and “(K)”, respectively, and substitute “(I)”, “(J)”, “(K)”, and “(L)(1)”, respectively.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, strike in their entirety lines 1 through 17, inclusive, and substitute:

“(M) (1) “PROVIDE NATURAL GAS SERVICES” MEANS THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, EXTENSION, ALTERATION, AND REMOVAL OF PIPING, GAS-FIRED EQUIPMENT, APPLIANCES, OR APPURTENANCES IN CONNECTION WITH A NATURAL GAS SUPPLY SYSTEM DOWNSTREAM OF THE GAS UTILITY POINT OF DELIVERY.

(2) “PROVIDE NATURAL GAS SERVICES” DOES NOT INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, EXTENSION, ALTERATION, OR REMOVAL OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT TO THE PLUMBING WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM:

(I) FIXTURES THAT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL ENERGY SOURCES, INCLUDING CLOTHES WASHERS, DISHWASHERS, FOOD GRINDERS, HUMIDIFIERS, ICE PUMPS, STERILIZERS, WATER COOLERS, AND WATER HEATERS; AND

(II) OPERATIONAL DEVICES, INCLUDING AERATORS, BACKFLOW PREVENTERS, EXPANSION TANKS, FILTERS, FLOW CONTROLS, HEAT EXCHANGERS, INTERCEPTORS, METERS, SEPARATORS, AND RELIEF VALVES.”;

and in line 18, strike “(M)” and substitute “(N)”.

On page 5, in lines 8 and 11, strike “(N)” and “(O)”, respectively, and substitute “(O)” and “(P)”, respectively.

On page 6, in line 5, after “system” insert “, INCLUDING CUSTOMER-OWNED GAS PIPING SYSTEMS”; in line 21, after “(a)(3)” insert “AND (4)”; in line 23, after “OR” insert

“EXISTING”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 8, strike in their entirety lines 8 through 10, inclusive, and substitute:

“(G) AN APPLICANT FOR A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE SHALL HAVE ACQUIRED 3,750 WORKING HOURS AS AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTER OVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 2 YEARS.”;

in lines 15 and 16, strike “AND THAT” and substitute a comma; and in lines 16 and 28, in each instance, strike “INCLUDING” and substitute “AND AT A MINIMUM REQUIRES”; in line 19, strike “A MINIMUM OF 4,200 HOURS” and substitute “2 YEARS”; in the same line, after “EXPERIENCE” insert “AS A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTER”; in line 21, after the semicolon insert “OR”; in line 22, strike “OR”; strike in their entirety lines 23 through 26, inclusive and substitute:

“(2) APPLY TO THE BOARD FOR A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2002 AND PROVIDE PROOF THAT:

(I) THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED A NATURAL GAS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OFFERED BY A THIRD PARTY THAT:

1. WAS IN EXISTENCE PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1999;
2. IS APPROVED BY THE BOARD; AND
3. PROVIDES THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL TRAINING RELATING TO NATURAL GAS SERVICES; AND

(II) THE APPLICANT HAS ACQUIRED 4 YEARS OF WORK EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING NATURAL GAS SERVICES; OR”;

in line 27, strike “(2)” and substitute “(3)”; in line 33, strike “4,200 HOURS” and substitute

(Over)

“2 YEARS”; and in the same line, after “EXPERIENCE” insert “AS A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTER”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 9, in line 3, strike “CONTRACTOR” and substitute “CONTRACTORS, WHO DEMONSTRATES QUALIFICATION AS A NATURAL GAS FITTER”; strike beginning with the semicolon in line 4 down through “BOARD” in line 6; and in line 13, strike “or” and substitute a comma; in the same line, after “license,” insert “OR A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE.”; in line 15, after “license” insert “OR APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE”; in line 16, strike “OR”; strike in their entirety lines 17 through 19, inclusive, and substitute:

“(IV) FOR A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE OF \$25; OR

(V) FOR A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE WITHOUT EXAMINATION OF \$50.

12-304.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in § 12-304.1 of this subtitle, an applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license is entitled to be examined as provided in this section.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Board shall give examinations to qualified applicants at the times and places that the Board determines.

(2) The Board shall give an examination at least once a year in Baltimore City.

(c) The Board shall give each qualified applicant notice of the time and place of examination.

(d) (1) The Board shall determine the subjects, scope, and form of and the passing score for examinations given under this subtitle.

(2) The Board shall provide examination questions that test the competency and qualifications of the applicant.

(3) WHEN TESTING AN APPLICANT FOR A MASTER PLUMBER LICENSE OR A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE, THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE AT A MINIMUM THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

(I) GAS FITTING REGULATIONS;

(II) SAFETY REGULATIONS;

(III) PIPE SIZING;

(IV) COMMON PRINCIPLES OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS RELATING TO GAS FITTING;

(V) INTERPRETATION OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS SHOWING THE ARRANGEMENT AND CONNECTION OF NATURAL GAS PIPES, FIXTURES, OR EQUIPMENT;

(VI) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS FOR BUILDINGS; AND

(VII) VENTING GAS APPLIANCES.

(e) (1) If an applicant fails an examination given by the Board, the Board shall give the applicant notice of the right of the applicant to have the papers of the applicant regraded.

(2) On written request to the Board, an applicant who failed an examination may:

(i) review the examination questions and the answers given by the applicant; and

(Over)

(ii) have the examination regraded.

(f) If an applicant fails to appear for a scheduled examination, the Board may require the applicant to pay another examination fee under § 12-303 of this subtitle before rescheduling an examination for the applicant.”;

and in line 22, after the second “license,” insert “A MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE, A JOURNEYMAN NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE, AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 10, after line 34, insert:

“(G) WHILE AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE IS IN EFFECT, IT AUTHORIZES THE LICENSEE TO PROVIDE NATURAL GAS SERVICE ONLY UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF A LICENSED MASTER NATURAL GAS FITTER.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 11, in line 22, after “license” insert “OR APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE”; and in line 25, strike “\$15” and substitute “\$25”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 12, in line 14, strike “OR”; and in the same line, after the second “LICENSE” insert “, OR AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE”.

On page 15, in line 25, after the first “A” insert “MASTER PLUMBER OR A”.

On page 18, in line 4, strike “OR”; and in line 5, after the first comma insert “OR “HOLDER OF AN APPRENTICE NATURAL GAS FITTERS LICENSE,””.