

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 885  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Parrott)

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**Journey Plumbers - Licensure Without Examination**

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This bill provides that the State Board of Plumbing must issue a journey plumber license, without examination, to an individual who has completed specified apprentice training and otherwise meets the requirements for licensure as a journey plumber.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to a new \$25 fee. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill provides that if, in addition to meeting other specified requirements, an applicant for a journey plumber license has successfully completed an apprentice program in plumbing approved by the Apprenticeship and Training Council, the board must issue a journey plumber license without examination. The application fee for the license is \$25.

The bill repeals language that will be obsolete after October 1, 2002 regarding applicants for master natural gas fitter licenses without examination.

**Current Law:** An applicant for a journey plumber license must: (1) have held an apprentice plumber license, or its equivalent for at least four years; (2) have completed at

least 7,500 hours of training during the four-year period in providing plumbing services under the direction and control of a licensed master plumber; and (3) have completed at least 32 hours of training in the testing of backflow prevention devices, in a manner approved by the board. After fulfilling these requirements, an applicant must submit an application to the board and pay an examination fee which is not to exceed the cost of the required examination (\$50 under current regulations). Upon passing the examination, a journey license is granted.

The grandfathered deadline for an applicant for a master natural gas fitters license to submit an application to receive a license without taking an examination is October 1, 2002. After that date, examinations will be required for licensure.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund revenues may increase minimally due to the \$25 fee required for application for a journey plumber license without examination. Currently, journey plumbers pay a \$50 examination fee that is a 100% pass-through to pay for the cost of the examination, and a \$35 license fee that goes to the general fund. Under the bill, an applicant for licensure without examination would pay a \$25 application fee that would go to the general fund, as well as the \$35 license fee set in current law. There are approximately 150 journey plumber licenses granted annually, an unknown percentage of which are reciprocal and require no examination under current law. Of the remainder, an unknown percentage would be expected to enroll in apprentice and training programs, but there are no data to reliably predict how many would ultimately apply for journey licensure without examination.

**Background:** The Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council is the registration agency for apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship sponsors who seek the approval of the council must develop “Standards of Apprenticeship” which include an organized written training plan, the terms and conditions of employment, attendance at related instruction, an equal employment opportunity pledge, and proper supervision of the apprentice(s). Since the program’s inception, 17,734 apprentices have completed training. The Apprenticeship and Training Council has approved and registered programs in 207 occupations.

On-the-job training for apprentices takes place at the work site under the direction of a highly skilled journeyperson(s). An approved training plan outlines the work process in which the apprentice will be trained and specifies an approximate length of time to be spent in each major process. A training program must be at least 2,000 hours in duration to be considered as an apprenticeable occupation. Because of the growing importance of advancing technology, many trades have lengthened both on-the-job and related instruction hours to encompass the changes taking place throughout industry. Most apprenticeships take three or four years to complete.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2002  
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Analysis by: Mitchell J. McCalmon

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510