

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 664

(Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's
County Delegation)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Reciprocal Plumber/Gasfitter
Licenses
MC/PG 109-07**

This bill authorizes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to issue a plumber/gasfitter license without examination to an individual holding a valid plumber/gasfitter license from the State Board of Plumbing, regardless of whether the licensee resides within the commission's jurisdiction.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The more inclusive definition will allow the State Board of Plumbing to maintain a reciprocal licensing agreement with WSSC.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: WSSC has the sole power to grant licenses to persons desiring to work at plumbing businesses in Montgomery and Prince George's counties that are under the commission's jurisdiction. Within this jurisdiction, WSSC exercises all power and authority conferred upon the State Board of Plumbing.

Any person holding a valid plumber's license issued by WSSC is entitled to be issued a plumber's license by the State Board of Plumbing upon presentation of a valid license and a notarized statement of good standing issued by WSSC. Further, any plumber residing within WSSC's jurisdiction who holds a valid license issued by the State Board of Plumbing is entitled to be issued a license by WSSC without examination upon presentation of a valid license issued by the State.

Background: The State Board of Plumbing is authorized to issue a journey plumber/gasfitter license to a person who has held an apprentice license for at least four years, completed at least 7,500 hours of training under the direction of a licensed master plumber/gasfitter, completed 32 hours of training in backflow prevention device testing, and passed a comprehensive written examination. A license fee of \$35 applies for a two-year license.

An individual is eligible for a master plumber/gasfitter license from the State Board of Plumbing if he/she has been licensed as a journey plumber/gasfitter for at least two years, completed at least 3,700 hours of training under the direction of a licensed master plumber/gasfitter, and passed a comprehensive written examination. A license fee of \$70 applies for a two-year license.

Comparable requirements exist for licensure by WSSC. The commission charges \$100 for a four-year master license, \$75 for a two-year reciprocal master license, and \$30 for a two-year journey license.

State Fiscal Effect: This bill allows holders of a license from the State Board of Plumbing to qualify for reciprocal licensure by WSSC without examination, regardless of where they reside. The more inclusive definition will allow the State Board of Plumbing to maintain a reciprocal licensing agreement with WSSC. If the legislation is not enacted and WSSC and the State Board of Plumbing fail to recognize the other for purposes of reciprocal licensing, general fund revenues could be affected. Plumbers could independently apply for licenses under both jurisdictions, but an undetermined numbers of licensees would likely choose not to pursue the additional license.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2007

ncs/hlb

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