

# SENATE BILL 954

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By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration**  
3 **Contractors – Maintenance Technician – License Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the qualifications for a maintenance technician license to  
5 be issued by the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and  
6 Refrigeration Contractors; establishing a certain fee for the issuance or renewal of a  
7 maintenance technician license; limiting the subjects on a certain examination for a  
8 certain license; authorizing the Board to waive certain examination requirements for  
9 certain individuals who are licensed in another state to provide certain services  
10 under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to send a certain notice to a certain  
11 applicant under certain circumstances; providing that a licensed maintenance  
12 technician need not obtain separate insurance while providing or assisting in the  
13 providing of certain services under certain circumstances; prohibiting an individual  
14 from exclusively providing general maintenance services on certain systems without  
15 a certain license; defining certain terms; altering the definition of a certain term; and  
16 generally relating to license requirements for a maintenance technician license.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Business Regulation

19 Section 9A-101, 9A-207, 9A-302, 9A-304, 9A-305, 9A-308, 9A-402, and 9A-501

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Business Regulation**

25 9A-101.

26 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) "Board" means the State Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and  
2 Refrigeration Contractors.

3 (c) "Contractor" means a heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration  
4 contractor.

5 (d) (1) "Cooling system" means a system in which heat is removed from air,  
6 surrounding surfaces, or both.

7 (2) "Cooling system" includes an air-conditioning system.

8 (e) "Forced air system" means a heating system that uses air being moved by  
9 mechanical means to transmit heat.

10 (f) (1) "Heating system" means a system in which heat is transmitted by  
11 radiation, conduction, or convection, or a combination of any of these methods, to the air,  
12 surrounding surfaces, or both.

13 (2) "Heating system" does not include a fireplace or woodburning stove not  
14 incorporated into or used as a primary heating system.

15 (g) "Heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor" means  
16 an individual who provides heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services.

17 (h) "Hydronic system" means a heating and cooling system using liquids or steam  
18 to transmit or remove heat.

19 (i) "Independent agency" means an office, commission, board, department, or  
20 agency established as an independent unit of government that may receive budgetary or  
21 administrative support from the federal, State, or local government.

22 (j) "Journeyman license" means a license issued by the Board to provide heating,  
23 ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration services while under the direction and  
24 control of a licensed contractor.

25 (k) "Journeyman restricted license" means a license issued by the Board to  
26 provide heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration services while under the  
27 direction and control of a licensed contractor, in only one of the following areas:

28 (1) heating – forced air systems;

29 (2) heating – hydronic systems;

30 (3) ventilation;

31 (4) air-conditioning; or

1 (5) refrigeration.

2 (l) (1) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued  
3 by the Board to provide or to assist in providing heating, ventilation, air–conditioning, or  
4 refrigeration services.

5 (2) “License” includes, unless the context requires otherwise:

6 (i) a master license;

7 (ii) a master restricted license;

8 (iii) a limited license;

9 (iv) a journeyman license;

10 (v) a journeyman restricted license; [and]

11 **(VI) A MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE; AND**

12 **[(vi)] (VII) an apprentice license.**

13 (m) “Licensed apprentice” means an individual who is licensed by the Board to  
14 assist in providing heating, ventilation, air–conditioning, or refrigeration services while:

15 (1) under the direction and control of a licensed contractor; and

16 (2) in training to become a journeyman.

17 (n) “Licensed contractor” means a contractor who is licensed by the Board to  
18 provide heating, ventilation, air–conditioning, or refrigeration services, but does not  
19 include a licensed apprentice or licensed journeyman.

20 (o) “Limited license” means a license issued by the Board exclusively to maintain  
21 or repair one or more of the following: heating systems, cooling systems, refrigeration  
22 systems, ventilation systems, or hydronic systems.

23 **(P) “LICENSED MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS**  
24 **LICENSED BY THE BOARD TO PROVIDE GENERAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE**  
25 **UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED JOURNEYMAN ON EQUIPMENT FOR**  
26 **HEATING SYSTEMS, VENTILATION SYSTEMS, COOLING SYSTEMS, AND**  
27 **REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE**  
28 **EQUIPMENT AND BY INDUSTRY GUIDELINES.**

1           **(Q) “MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE” MEANS A LICENSE ISSUED BY**  
2 **THE BOARD TO PROVIDE GENERAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE UNDER THE**  
3 **SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED JOURNEYMAN ON EQUIPMENT FOR HEATING SYSTEMS,**  
4 **VENTILATION SYSTEMS, COOLING SYSTEMS, AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS AS**  
5 **PRESCRIBED BY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE EQUIPMENT AND BY INDUSTRY**  
6 **GUIDELINES.**

7           **[(p)] (R)**       “Master license” means a license issued by the Board to provide heating,  
8 ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services.

9           **[(q)] (S)**       “Master restricted license” means a license issued by the Board to  
10 provide services in only one of the following areas:

11                   (1)     heating – forced air systems;

12                   (2)     heating – hydronic systems;

13                   (3)     ventilation;

14                   (4)     air-conditioning; or

15                   (5)     refrigeration.

16           **(T) (1) “PROVIDE GENERAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE” MEANS THE**  
17 **SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION, DETECTION, AND CORRECTION PERFORMED ON A PIECE**  
18 **OF WORKING EQUIPMENT TO LESSEN THE LIKELIHOOD OF BREAKDOWN OR**  
19 **FAILURE.**

20                   **(2) “PROVIDE GENERAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE” DOES NOT**  
21 **INCLUDE THE REPLACEMENT, ALTERATION, OR MODIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT OR**  
22 **CONTROLS ON A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT.**

23           **[(r)] (U)**       “Provide heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration  
24 services” means to install, maintain, alter, remodel, or repair heating systems, cooling  
25 systems, refrigeration systems, ventilation systems, or hydronic systems.

26           **[(s)] (V)**       “Refrigeration system” means a system used to cool a surface or area  
27 below 55 degrees Fahrenheit or 12.9 degrees Celsius.

28           **[(t)] (W)**       “Self-contained appliance” means a heating, ventilation,  
29 air-conditioning, or refrigeration device that is designed and manufactured:

30                   (1)     with its component parts contained within a single chassis;

1           (2)     with a standard factory-installed electrical line cord that requires a  
2 plug-in device;

3           (3)     with no additional external fuel source; and

4           (4)     independent of an air distribution system.

5           **[(u)] (X)**     “Subdivision of the State” means any of the 23 counties in Maryland,  
6 the City of Baltimore, and any municipal corporation.

7           **[(v)] (Y)**     “Ventilation system” means the natural or mechanical process of  
8 supplying air to, or removing air from, any space:

9           (1)     whether the air is conditioned or is not conditioned; and

10          (2)     at a rate of airflow of more than 250 cubic feet per minute.

11   9A-207.

12          (a)     Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Board may set reasonable  
13 fees for its services.

14          (b)     Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, revenues generated by the  
15 Board shall be at least equal to expenses incurred by the Board.

16          (c)     The Board shall require the following fees for the issuance or renewal of the  
17 following licenses:

18                 (1)     master license – \$75;

19                 (2)     master restricted license – \$25 for each area licensed;

20                 (3)     limited license – \$75;

21                 (4)     journeyman license – \$20; **[and]**

22                 **(5)     MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE – \$40; AND**

23                 **[(5)] (6)**     apprentice license – \$10.

24          (d)     The Board shall pay all money collected under this title into the General Fund  
25 of the State.

26   9A-302.

1 (a) To qualify for an apprentice, **MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**, journeyman,  
2 journeyman restricted, master, master restricted, or limited license, an applicant shall  
3 meet the requirements of this section.

4 (b) An applicant for a master heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and  
5 refrigeration contractor license shall:

6 (1) have been regularly and principally employed in providing heating,  
7 ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services under a journeyman, journeyman  
8 restricted, limited, or master restricted license for not less than 3 years of active experience  
9 under the direction and control of a master heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and  
10 refrigeration contractor and have been so employed for not less than 1,875 hours in the  
11 year prior to application; and

12 (2) pass an examination administered by the Board.

13 (c) An applicant for a master restricted heating, ventilation, air-conditioning,  
14 and refrigeration contractor license shall:

15 (1) have been regularly and principally employed in providing  
16 refrigeration, air-conditioning, forced air heating, hydronic heating, or ventilation services  
17 under a journeyman, journeyman restricted, limited, or master restricted license for not  
18 less than 3 years of active experience under the direction and control of a master or master  
19 restricted heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor and have  
20 been so employed for not less than 1,875 hours in the year prior to application; and

21 (2) pass an examination administered by the Board.

22 (d) An applicant for a limited heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and  
23 refrigeration license shall:

24 (1) have been regularly and principally employed in providing forced air  
25 heating, hydronic heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services under a  
26 journeyman license for not less than 2 years of active experience under the direction and  
27 control of the holder of a master, master restricted, or limited license under this title, and  
28 have been so employed for not less than 1,000 hours in the year prior to application; and

29 (2) pass an examination administered by the Board.

30 (e) An applicant for a journeyman license shall:

31 (1) have held, for a period of at least 3 years, an apprentice license, and  
32 during that period shall have completed at least 1,875 hours of training in providing  
33 heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration services under the direction and  
34 control of a licensed contractor; and

35 (2) pass an examination administered by the Board.

1 (f) An applicant for a journeyman restricted license shall:

2 (1) have held, for a period of at least 3 years, an apprentice license, and  
3 during that period shall have completed at least 1,875 hours of training in providing forced  
4 air heating, hydronic heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services under  
5 the direction and control of a licensed contractor; and

6 (2) pass an examination administered by the Board.

7 **(G) AN APPLICANT FOR A MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE SHALL:**

8 **(1) HAVE BEEN REGULARLY EMPLOYED IN PROVIDING GENERAL**  
9 **PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON EQUIPMENT FOR HEATING SYSTEMS, VENTILATION**  
10 **SYSTEMS, COOLING SYSTEMS, AND REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS FOR NOT LESS THAN 2**  
11 **YEARS OF ACTIVE EXPERIENCE UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF A**  
12 **LICENSED CONTRACTOR UNDER THIS TITLE OR IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE**  
13 **UNITED STATES, AND HAVE BEEN SO EMPLOYED FOR NOT LESS THAN 3,750 HOURS**  
14 **IN THE 2 YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION;**

15 **(2) BE ENROLLED IN AT LEAST THE SECOND YEAR OF AN APPRENTICE**  
16 **PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE BOARD, OR HAVE DOCUMENTED TRAINING THROUGH**  
17 **AN INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR HEATING, VENTILATION,**  
18 **AIR-CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE APPROVED**  
19 **BY THE BOARD; AND**

20 **(3) PASS AN EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD.**

21 **[(g)] (H)** (1) The Board may credit not more than 3 years of formal course of  
22 study or professional training in heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration  
23 services if, in the opinion of the Board, the study or training provided comparable  
24 experience.

25 (2) The Board may credit not more than 6 years of work experience in  
26 heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services that fails to meet the  
27 requirements of subsection (b)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), [or] (f)(1), **OR (G)(1)** of this section if,  
28 in the opinion of the Board:

29 (i) the work provided comparable experience; and

30 (ii) the failure of the applicant to meet the requirements is not  
31 attributable to fault or neglect on the part of the applicant.

32 (3) The Board shall credit not more than 3 years of work experience in  
33 heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services to any applicant under this

1 section who has been teaching formal courses of study in heating, ventilation,  
2 air-conditioning, or refrigeration services for purposes of satisfying the requirements of  
3 subsections (b)(1), (c)(1), (d)(1), (e)(1), [or] (f)(1), **OR (G)(1)** of this section.

4 9A-304.

5 (a) An applicant who otherwise qualifies for a license is entitled to be examined  
6 as provided in this section.

7 (b) The Board shall offer examinations to applicants at least twice annually, at  
8 places within the State and at times that the Board determines.

9 (c) The Board shall send written notice of the date, hour, and place of examination  
10 to each applicant for a license who is required to pass the examination.

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

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

15 (e) An applicant for a master restricted, journeyman restricted, or limited  
16 heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor license **OR A**  
17 **MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE** shall be examined only on subjects in which the  
18 applicant has the experience required under § 9A-302 of this subtitle.

19 (f) To take an examination, an applicant shall pay to the Board or a testing  
20 service chosen by the Board the examination fee set by the Board in an amount not to  
21 exceed the cost of the examination.

22 (g) (1) The Board may use a testing service to administer the examinations  
23 given under this title.

24 (2) If the Board uses a testing service, the testing service, subject to  
25 requirements set by the Board, may:

26 (i) set the time and place of examinations;

27 (ii) give qualified applicants notice of the time and place of  
28 examinations; and

29 (iii) furnish any other information that the Board may require the  
30 testing service to provide.

31 9A-305.



1 (a) Subject to the limitations in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, on the  
2 affirmative vote of at least a majority of the authorized membership of the Board, the Board  
3 may waive the examination requirements of this title for an individual who is licensed in  
4 another state to provide heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services as  
5 a **MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN OR A** journeyman, journeyman restricted, master, master  
6 restricted, or limited heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration contractor.

7 (b) The Board may grant a waiver under this section only if the applicant:

8 (1) pays the appropriate application fee required by § 9A-207 of this title;  
9 and

10 (2) provides adequate evidence that the applicant:

11 (i) meets the qualifications otherwise required by this title;

12 (ii) holds an active license in good standing in the other state;

13 (iii) holds a license that is equivalent to the State license; and

14 (iv) became licensed in the other state after meeting, in that state,  
15 requirements that are at least equivalent to the licensing requirements of this State,  
16 including the number of years of work experience equivalent to the experience required  
17 under § 9A-302(b), (c), and (d) of this subtitle.

18 (c) The Board may grant a waiver only if the state in which the applicant is  
19 licensed waives the examination of licensees of this State to a similar extent as this State  
20 waives the examination requirements for individuals licensed in that state.

21 (d) (1) In this subsection, "BRAC" means the Base Realignment and Closure  
22 process as announced by the United States Department of Defense.

23 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this  
24 section, the Board shall grant a waiver to an applicant who files a request before July 1,  
25 2012, if the applicant:

26 (i) pays the appropriate application fee required under § 9A-207 of  
27 this title;

28 (ii) holds an active Virginia license in good standing that is  
29 equivalent to the State license;

30 (iii) has experience in the provision of heating, ventilation,  
31 air-conditioning, or refrigeration services that meets the time requirements of § 9A-302 of  
32 this subtitle; and

1 (iv) has relocated to the State as a family member of a BRAC  
2 employee.

3 9A-308.

4 (a) If an applicant passes the examination required by the Board and otherwise  
5 qualifies for a master, master restricted, or limited heating, ventilation, air-conditioning,  
6 and refrigeration contractor license under this title, the Board shall send the applicant a  
7 notice that states:

8 (1) the applicant has qualified for the license; and

9 (2) the Board will issue the license to an applicant on receipt of:

10 (i) proof of insurance as required under § 9A-402 of this title; and

11 (ii) a license fee established by the Board.

12 (b) If an applicant passes the examination required by the Board and otherwise  
13 qualifies for a **MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE**, journeyman license, or journeyman  
14 restricted license under this title, the Board shall send the applicant a notice that states:

15 (1) the applicant has qualified for the license; and

16 (2) the Board will issue the license to an applicant on receipt of a license  
17 fee established by the Board.

18 9A-402.

19 (a) A holder of a master, master restricted, or limited heating, ventilation,  
20 air-conditioning, and refrigeration license may not contract to provide services on behalf of  
21 the licensee, or another person who provides heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or  
22 refrigeration services, unless the work of the licensee, including completed operations, is  
23 covered by:

24 (1) general liability insurance in the amount of at least \$300,000; and

25 (2) property damage insurance in the amount of at least \$100,000.

26 (b) (1) The insurance required under this section may be bought:

27 (i) by a holder of a master, master restricted, or limited heating,  
28 ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration license; or

29 (ii) by the person who engages in the business of providing heating,  
30 ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services and employs the holder of the  
31 master, master restricted, or limited license.

1           (2)    The insurance requirement of this section is not meant for work that a  
2 master, master restricted, or limited license holder does outside the scope of employment  
3 for the person who carries the insurance.

4           (c)   (1)   A licensed apprentice, **LICENSED MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**,  
5 licensed journeyman, or licensed journeyman restricted in the employ of a master, master  
6 restricted, or limited licensee need not obtain separate insurance while providing or  
7 assisting in providing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or refrigeration services under  
8 the control and supervision of the licensee.

9           (2)    Subject to the restrictions of § 9A-309 of this title regarding inactive  
10 status, inactive licensees who have had their inactive status approved by the Board need  
11 not obtain insurance while maintaining inactive status.

12          (d)   (1)   An applicant for any license under this title shall submit proof of the  
13 insurance required under this section to the Board with the license application.

14          (2)    Unless the applicant submits proof of insurance, the Board may not  
15 issue any license to an applicant to whom the insurance requirements of this section apply.

16          (e)    Unless an applicant meets the insurance requirements of this section, the  
17 Board may not renew any license of the applicant to whom the insurance requirements of  
18 this section apply.

19          (f)    A holder of a master, master restricted, or limited license shall give the Board  
20 notice of the cancellation of insurance at least 10 days before the effective date of the  
21 cancellation.

22          (g)    If a county, municipal corporation, special taxing district, or other political  
23 subdivision requires a master, master restricted, or limited heating, ventilation,  
24 air-conditioning, and refrigeration license holder, or other person who engages in the  
25 business of providing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration services, to  
26 execute a surety bond under local heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration  
27 requirements, the person may satisfy the bond requirement by submitting proof of the  
28 insurance required under this section.

29          (h)    The Board shall specify on each license whether the license holder meets the  
30 insurance requirements of this section.

31 9A-501.

32          (a)    Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual may not provide,  
33 attempt to provide, or offer to provide heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or  
34 refrigeration services unless issued a master license by the Board.

1 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual may not assist,  
2 attempt to assist, or offer to assist in providing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, or  
3 refrigeration services unless issued a master restricted license by the Board.

4 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this title, an individual may not exclusively  
5 maintain or repair heating systems, cooling systems, refrigeration systems, ventilation  
6 systems, or hydronic systems in the State unless issued a limited license by the Board.

7 **(D) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY**  
8 **NOT PROVIDE, ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE, OR OFFER TO PROVIDE GENERAL**  
9 **PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE ON HEATING SYSTEMS, COOLING SYSTEMS,**  
10 **REFRIGERATION SYSTEMS, OR VENTILATION SYSTEMS IN THE STATE UNLESS**  
11 **ISSUED A MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN LICENSE BY THE BOARD.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2016.