

**Before The Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Public Hearing Regarding
House Bill #1357
State Licensure of Plumbers**

**Testimony Of
Charles B. Gans
Charles B. Gans Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc.**

Dear Chairwoman Harhart and Chairman Readshaw and the members of the Professional Licensure Committee:

My name is Charlie Gans and I am President of Charles B. Gans Plumbing, Heating and Cooling, Inc. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, the State Licensure of Plumbers. My father started in the plumbing business in 1926, I started in 1955 and my brother in 1965. I am an active member of my community and a Charter member of our Haverford Township Rotary Club since 1981. I have served as president, secretary, membership chair and fundraising chair. I believe in helping the community of which I live and work.

In addition, I have severed to help improve the plumbing industry and help protect the health of the nation.

I have held the following positions in the National PHCC:

- NAPHCC Coupon Book Chairman
- NAPHCC Membership Committee
- National Zone Director – Zone 1 (Pennsylvania, Ohio & West Virginia) 1998, 1999 & 2000

State PHCC offices held and committees served:

- PA PHCC Secretary – 1994
- PA PHCC President 1996 – 1997
- Legislative Chairman 1994 – 1997
- Membership Chairman 1993-1996
- Licensure Chairman – 2000-2002
- Back Flow Chairman – 1995-1996
- Public Safety Standards Committee 1995-2006
- Apprenticeship Chairman 2000-2003
- Convention Committee Chairman – 1996

Local PHCC offices held and committees served:

- President
- National Director
- State Director
- Secretary
- By-Laws Chairman
- Ladies Night Chairman
- Legislative Chairman
- Code Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Education Chairman
- Entertainment Chairman
- Apprenticeship Chairman

As you see I have taken an active role in my industry and I strongly believe that “plumbers” in Pennsylvania should be qualified individuals and that consumers should have the confidence when calling a plumber that they are indeed licensed and have the necessary education and background to efficiently provide accurate plumbing services that are up to standards and code.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: This legislation would benefit the consumers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by insuring that persons calling themselves "Plumbers" or "providing plumbing services to the public" are in fact qualified to do so. Under this proposed legislation, a consumer would have the ability to look up via a State website a person calling himself a "Plumber" or a "Licensed Plumbing Contractor" to determine whether or not this person is in fact licensed and possess the technical background to provide services in their home or place of business.

RECIPROCITY: Unfortunately, currently Pennsylvania is one of six states in the country that does not have state licensure. ALL of the states bordering Pennsylvania HAVE state licensure. In fact, many of the Townships and Municipalities in the Commonwealth accept these licenses from other states thus allowing out of state plumbing contractors to work in the Commonwealth. However, because PA does not have a state license it makes it difficult for Pennsylvania Plumbing Contractors, to work in the states bordering Pennsylvania as we do not have a consistent or uniform method of licensing plumbers.

PROFESSIONALISM: The plumbing Industry is in fact one industry actually asking for more government interaction.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a person is required to have a state license for several occupations from selling real estate, to being a hair stylist. It seems crazy to me that the state sees the need to require a state license to cut, color, and style hair but not in our trade, the plumbing industry.

Our industry could pose a health risk if not done correctly. For example if piping systems are not done correctly you could run the risk of sickness or even death. "The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation" and as professional plumbers, we feel the same sense of responsibility to protect the consumers as our elected officials. We recognize the need to provide safe drinking water to all consumers as well as to protect the environment to dispose of waste in a safe and ethical manner.

In closing, I again ask you to please support the passage of House Bill #1357 as I feel it is an important step to not only protect the consumers of the Commonwealth but to promote the business interest of all Professional Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors in the State of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Gans