

*Plumbers Local Union 690 Industry Funds  
Of Philadelphia & Vicinity*

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

Testimony of P. Darby Doyle, Field Representative for Plumbers  
Local Union 690

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

My name is Darby Doyle, I am currently a 27 year member of the Plumbers Union Local 690 who has gone through a (5) year 10,000 hour certified plumbing apprenticeship program. I am currently the Field Representative for Local 690 and have held many positions in the plumbing field including mechanic to foreman on commercial projects including The Hospital for the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania School for Animals, Holy Redeemer Hospital, Drexel University, Tyler School of Arts, The National Constitution Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Chestnut Hill College, Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Two Liberty Place and Commerce Square Center.

Please accept my written testimony in support of House Bill 1357, Statewide Licensure for Plumbers.

The plumbing occupation has had this montra forever and a day.... "The Plumber Protects The Health Of The Nation".

Humans need water to survive, not dirty water, they need clean pure POTABLE water. Consumers across the Commonwealth rely on skilled plumbers to supply and remove water from their plumbing systems not shady fly by night imposters with standard white vans who call themselves PLUMBERS.

Many people take for granted the simple task of turning on their showers, faucets, outside hoses and instantly receive clean water. These folks also take for granted when the water goes down the drain or they flush their toilet it is being disposed of properly.

Do you know how to ruin a persons' day? Instantly have one of these tasks go wrong... Panic sets in... flustered and mad at why this simple system doesn't work. What do they do after they scream and pull all the rugs off of the floor? They call a "guy their friend" knows and he comes over and plunges the sink, tub or toilet, clears the blockage and grabs some cash and hopes that "NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN".

Well the guy who used the plunger is a landscaper by day, bartender by night (all cash jobs, paying no taxes to the commonwealth) and has little to no clue of how a plumbing system really works. It sounds funny but true, we have all been in this scenario, we just want to get out of a jam, pay a non-professional hoping he gets it done so we can get out the door to work or a party. Needless to say, a few weeks go by and the same problem occurs, the homeowner knows there is a real problem now and they look through the phone and google Plumber in my Area... and they get a legit number of a plumbing contractor who shows up on time, with insurance and the knowledge from an educated background to identify the problem and fix it so it does not happen again. The homeowner just paid a second time to correct the same problem.

Ask yourself... "Would you hire a nonprofessional to assist you in a legal matter", would you let a neighborhood guy work on your teeth" "I think my kid broke a bone, do you anyone who might be able set a cast or reset his bone?" I smell gas in my kitchen, can your husband come over to help, and he's pretty handy right?"

These scenarios sound witty but they are true. Registration of all Plumbers in Pennsylvania needs to be done. Work performed, would be performed in a more efficient professional manner with noble Professional Plumbers performing the tasks that consumers know will be done correctly.

There are over 250 plumbers in the Montgomery County Blue Book. Simple math... if each plumber paid \$200 a year for a license that would be \$50,000 of revenue and that does not include all plumbers in Montgomery County only those who list their companies in the Blue Book. With 67 counties and over 2600 local cities, boroughs and townships in the Commonwealth. With an estimated 15,000 contractors who would need to be licensed (and that number is low) the commonwealth would receive 1-1/2 to 2 million dollars in revenue annually. With that amount of money collected, you could create a few jobs to monitor these contractors and /or use them for education, after school, elderly care of foster care programs. Having one license instead of multiple licenses will hopefully save the customer money on their services.

In Pennsylvania you need a license to; Practice Law, Cut & Braid Hair and to practice medicine but not to be the protector of the clean, safe potable water and removal of waste water, all of which if not done properly could cause death.

Pennsylvanian's need House Bill 1357. It is a very important step in protecting consumers of the commonwealth and promoting the Professionalism of the Plumbing Contractors and the Plumbing Industry.

Please make every effort to feel the same sense of responsibility that I do, when I say; The Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Darby Doyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

P. Darby Doyle