

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 288

PRINTER'S NO. 1864

AMOUNT

\$85,000 one-time
appropriation in FY 2010-2011

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

February 20, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Erickson

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
Feb. 20, 2009

Reported as committed, June 9, 2009

First consideration, June 9, 2009

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 22, 2009

Re-reported as amended, April 19, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 288 enacts the Plumbing Contractor Licensure Act by establishing the State Board of Plumbing Contractors within the Department of Labor and Industry (L & I). The board is comprised of the Secretary of L & I, two public members and six professional members. The board is charged with responsibilities including:

- 1) Develop application forms for licensure of plumbing contractors,
- 2) Circulate the forms and educate the public concerning the provisions of the Act,
- 3) Promulgate and enforce regulations to implement the provisions in the Act, including the setting of fees,
- 4) Issue, renew, reinstate, fail to renew, suspend and revoke licenses of individuals providing plumbing services, including the investigation of licensure applications,

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- 5) Approve professional testing organizations who are charged with the preparation and administration of written, oral, or practical examinations,
- 6) Keep minutes and records of all board proceedings,
- 7) Submit an annual report on specified information to the legislative Committees on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, as well as the board's budget to the legislative Appropriations Committees, and
- 8) Adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations regarding continuing education requirements for individuals licensed as master or journeyman plumbers.

The bill provides the required licensure qualifications for a master plumber, a journeyman plumber, and an apprentice plumber. The title, "licensed plumbing contractor," can only be used by a master plumber, with two specific exceptions. Licensed master or journeyman plumbers providing plumbing services in counties of the first and second class, must also pass an examination on the counties' plumbing codes. Other specified qualifications based on professional experience are permitted for licensure of a master or journeyman plumber without examination.

Section 501 on licensure requirements is effective in one year. The remainder of the Act is effective in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill requires the Board to set licensure and renewal fees to cover the costs incurred to implement the provisions of the Act. Fines and penalties for violations of the Act are specified in the bill. Revenue from the fees, fines and penalties are to be deposited into a restricted account within the General Fund, administered by L & I.

An \$85,000 appropriation is made to L & I to pay for start-up costs associated with the bill's provisions. This amount is required to be paid back within 3 years of the bill's implementation date. The Administration has estimated a cost of \$339,000 for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the provisions. Such costs are to be covered by the fees set by the Board, as well as the fines and penalties deposited into the restricted account.