



**McINTYRE**

**Plumbing & Heating  
Mechanical Contractor Inc.**

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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 KEVIN P. GLASSON  
OWNER/PRESIDENT, MCINTYRE PLUMBING & HEATING

BUCKS COUNTY, PA - RCC MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSE #310  
LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER - CITY OF PHILADELPHIA #4568  
LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER - STATE OF NEW JERSEY #7760

MEMBER OF PAPHCC

STATE DIRECTOR - BUCKS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE PAPHCC  
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED BUILDING CONTRACTORS (ABC)

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER - LEVITTOWN FIRE CO #2 - 25 YEARS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - LEVITTOWN FIRE CO #2 - 3 YEARS

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

My name is Kevin Glasson and I am owner of McIntyre Plumbing & Heating, Ben Franklin Plumbing & One Hour Heating and Air. Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-1357, the State License of Plumbers.

I would like to share with you my personal and professional background and how it has brought me to where I am today. I come from a family of 12 brothers and sisters, a father who was a union plumber/pipefitter and died when I was the age of 7, my mother was left to raise us and was stricken with MS and died at the age of 69. Having a father and brothers who were in the trades, I found that to be a passion of my own as a young teen. At the age of 15 and starting high school I saw an opportunity that would allow me to pursue the trades. At this time, there was a program in place where a student would attend their home high school for academics (which for me was Bishop Egan) for two weeks and then go to tech school (which was Bucks County Technical School) for two weeks to learn a trade of their desire. I applied my freshman year for small engine repair and carpentry and to my surprise I was not accepted because the classes were full. After being very disappointed and speaking to my mother, she encouraged me to go to the school and ask what else was available for me. So on a day off from my home school, I decided to ride my bike from the Indian Creek section of Levittown up to the Tech School and went in and asked if there was an administrator or someone I could talk to about my denial letter. The office staff put me in a room and two administrators came in (Mr. Art James and Mr. Mike Schmeg) to talk with them. I shared with the both of them about me wanting to attend the tech school program because my brothers were all tech school grads and I wanted to follow in their footsteps and that I was upset that I was being denied this opportunity. These administrators were quite surprised that a 15-year old teenager would take the time on his day off from school to come in and question why he wasn't accepted. At this point, they told me that as of the day I was there that there was a list of shops that still had some availability and to see if I would have any interest in one of these shops and that they would let me sit in on the class this same day and see what they could do to get me in. These shops were: baking, horticulture, cosmetology, heating and ventilation. Knowing that I wanted to be in a trade, and my brother Joe was going to be graduating that year from the class, I chose heating and ventilation. I sat in on the class that day, met the instructor Mr. Bill Thistle and immediately knew that I wanted to accept their offer to attend this class starting my Sophomore year. Starting that Sophomore year of high school and beginning my journey into the trades, I had no idea that I was developing a lifelong relationship with my instructor and looked to him as a father-figure and ultimately became one of his pallbearers at his funeral.

After completing my four (4) years of tech school, I then enrolled in the plumbing apprentice night program. I took and passed my plumbing journeymans license exam in January of 1983. In March of 1983, I bought my first plumbing company from John McIntyre. John held the master plumbers license for the company and I worked under him until I passed my Master Plumbers exam in 1985 and made my final payment to John and officially took over the company.

Since the purchase of my first company (McIntyre Plumbing), I have purchased throughout the years seven (7) additional plumbing and heating residential service companies and employ more than 20 employees.

It is known that plumbing is assumed as something that is expected without giving much thought or concern of the health of our nation. When you showered this morning, brushed your teeth, made your coffee, washed your clothes, your dishes, prepared your meals did you even give a second thought about how the outcome of all of these things could be different, if it weren't for the qualified licensed plumbers. Did you think of the many diseases that can be had from improper piping? Or did you just assume or take for granted something that could literally kill you if not done properly?

The PA Department of State (that handles professional licenses) states on their own website: "Professional licensing protects the health and safety of the public from fraudulent and unethical practitioners."

Does the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania really stand behind this quote when hearing this true story?

My office received a call from a homeowner in the Langhorne PA area stating that she had a water heater installed recently and now has no hot water. She tried to reach out to the contractor that installed the water heater and was unable to reach him nor did he return any of her calls. We scheduled an appointment to go out to take a look at her situation and upon our licensed plumbers evaluation it was founded that a gas-fired water heater was installed improperly in the basement and the flue pipe was never connected to the chimney. The original installer told this senior citizen resident that she would need to leave the window open in her basement for the unit to operate properly. As we all know...carbon monoxide is a silent killer and the outcome of this improper installation could have been fatal.

There are numerous similar cases of safety issues by a plumber failing to properly perform their job that can be touched upon but, I believe you can see how important having this bill passed could protect the well-being of the residents of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania requires certain industries to have a license in order to provide their services to the community, yet doesn't deem it necessary for the plumbing industry to hold a license to protect the health of the State of Pennsylvania and its consumers.

The state already requires licenses for the following occupations: barber, cosmetologist, and a realtor but does not require the person providing clean and sanitary water to be licensed.

Examples:

Cosmetology – need 1250 hours and a license (need to renew license every 2yrs)

Barber – need 1250 hours and a license (need to renew license every 2yrs)

This legislation would be a huge benefit to the consumers of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania simply by requiring contractors to have the proper schooling and licensing to provide and perform the trade up to current plumbing codes and ensuring the safety and well-being of homeowners.

Let's take a quick look at the economic value to this law; a consumer invites someone into their home to provide a service for them and then days, weeks, months (or even that same day) finds out that the work that was performed was sub-standard and done from an unqualified contractor and at this point the consumer needs to call a professional to properly fix the problem, spending additional monies that consumers in today's economy don't have. Now multiply that by thousands of consumers throughout the State of PA and you will find true hardship on consumers.

The Commonwealth of PA is one of six states in our country that does not have state licensure, what are we missing that most all other states understand? One of our neighboring states, New Jersey, has implemented the state licensing for plumbing and any unlicensed plumber that performs work in that state will be faced with fines and penalties. The State of New Jersey has this law in place to protect their residents. Why don't we?

Thank you for your time and sincere consideration in the passing of House Bill #1357 and by doing so protecting the constituents that you serve in the Commonwealth of PA.

Respectfully submitted: Kevin P. Glasson, Master Plumber