



ABC Keystone  
Headquarters  
135 Shellyland Road  
Manheim, PA 17545  
Office: (717) 653-8106  
Fax: (717) 653-6431

Nittany Valley Office  
898 N Eagle Valley Road  
Howard, PA 16841  
Legislative Office  
800 N 3rd Street, Ste. 407  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Frank Burns  
332 Main Capitol Building, PO Box 202072  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Keystone Chapter's membership of nearly 700 leaders and 33,000 employees in the construction industry, I write to express our concerns with the current version of Representative Galloway's House Bill 390 (Plumber and Plumbing Contractors Licensure Act). Our chapter serves 33 counties of the Commonwealth to provide high quality training which also includes a highly reputable registered apprenticeship program that includes plumbing.

To be clear, we are not opposed to the concept of plumbing licensure and in fact negotiated to reach agreed to language with previous versions in past sessions. We also see a benefit in streamlining a process for plumbers to only need one license compared to the current process that requires documentation from multiple municipalities in which the plumber is working.

However, the current printer's number has concerns that should be addressed:

- We are concerned with having apprentices be required under Section 502 to also pay a fee to the newly established State Board of Plumbing Contractors. These individuals are still working towards establishing their credentials and this approach appears to be a revenue stream more than an accountability measure.
- While HB 390 would allow licensees to take an exam in Counties of the First and Second Class, this does not truly allow for statewide licensure as it is a bifurcated process in different geographical areas.
- HB 390 is a more voluntary system than requiring license in order to provide plumbing services which limits the effectiveness of having a license.
- The Board has very broad authority to not only create its own regulations but also subpoena individuals and conduct hearings all while maintaining full control of licensure. This is too much power for an independent body without proper oversight from the General Assembly. Without that oversight there is potential for abuse. Even with an appeals process in place, the Board is able to administratively strangle the livelihood of a plumber with no repercussions even if an appeal is won by a plumber.

We ask the committee to table a vote on HB 390 and consider amendments for the above points. Please contact our Government Affairs Director, Jim Willshier, at [jim@abckeystone.org](mailto:jim@abckeystone.org) if we can provide more information or participate in future discussions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

G. David Sload  
President-CEO

cc: The Honorable Carl Metzgar, Chair House Professional Licensure  
The Honorable John Galloway