



June 8, 2023

*Bill Summary*

“Providing for plumber and plumbing contractors licensure; establishing the State Board of Plumbing Contractors and providing for its powers and duties; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of State; establishing fees, fines and civil penalties; establishing the Plumbing Contractors Licensure Account; and making an appropriation.”

*ABC Eastern Pennsylvania Position*

ABC Eastern Pennsylvania opposes House Bill 390 (Printers Number 357) in its current form, for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in opposition or offer changes to this legislation.

- Hinders the ability of individuals who are seeking immediate opportunities in the trades, by rendering them ineligible for five (5) years.
- Establishes broad and ambiguous government control over private industry. While the original intent of House Bill 390 was to provide oversight of the term “licensed plumbing contractor,” the most recent version has expanded government control over the practice of plumbing. Because the bill preserves current municipal ordinances that require a master plumber to perform permitted work, the proposed State Board of Plumbing Contractors would have control over master plumbers, thereby maintaining a strict grasp on the practice of plumbing.
- Allows for vague and indiscriminate regulation of a vital public service. HB 390 also allows for a wide array of offenses that may or may not merit the decision of the appointed State Board of Plumbing Contractors to deny or revoke a license. HB 390 provides no appeal process for a licensed individual to state his/her case before a suspension is issued and once a final determination is made by the board, only a ruling by the Commonwealth Court can undo such a ruling.
- Fails to achieve uniform statewide oversight. While the bill provides for a licensing proposal that regulates the practice of plumbing in Pennsylvania, such a license would still not permit individuals from performing work in counties of the first and second class. HB 390 would only provide an opportunity for individuals to demonstrate proficiency in those counties, but would do nothing to guarantee statewide uniformity or the ability of a licensed individual to perform plumbing services in those counties.

We offer our services to assist in amending HB390 in the future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Perpiglia  
President & CEO  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter