

## SENATE BILL #SB-800 KEY POINTS

- Pennsylvania is only one of six States in the Country that does not have a Statewide License for Plumbers. Currently, 2 of the six are exploring a statewide license.
- This legislation is equally supported by Organized Labor and the Merit Shop portion of the Industry.
- The expectation when a consumer contacts a Plumber, that the person offering plumbing services are in fact trained, licensed, and possess the technical ability to perform safe, code compliant work, is not being met. Too often consumers are forced to pay multiple times to correct substandard work.
- Out of State Plumbing Contractors are entering into Pennsylvania at an alarming rate and taking work from local Plumbing Contractors and our general workforce. Not only are Pennsylvanians being shut out from securing work in the communities that they live in, but the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is also being shortchanged by these out of State companies not paying all the taxes that Pennsylvania based companies are required to pay. These out of State companies not only bring their own workforce but also materials and goods from their home State taking business away from local suppliers and vendors.
- Because of the strict licensing requirements in other States, especially the States that border Pennsylvania, our Plumbing Companies and our general plumbing workforce does not enjoy the same ability to bid and secure work in other States since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not have a consistent Statewide Plumbing License that is required by other States in order to be recognized.
- Licensing requirements are fragmented throughout the Commonwealth with each Municipality, County, City, Township or Borough having differing requirements for obtaining a plumbing license. This fragmentation and differing requirements and the lack of one established set of guidelines as described in a State License is the reason that Pennsylvania does not and cannot enjoy reciprocity with other States. If passed, this legislation would give the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the ability to deny out of State Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors a license in our State if their home State does not recognize or reciprocate with Pennsylvania.
- This legislation, if passed, would enhance the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act requiring residential contractors to maintain a registration with the State Attorney General's Office thus adding a significant layer of protection to the consumers of Pennsylvania.
- This legislation would not disrupt or change any existing practices of work assignments or work jurisdiction. This legislation would not cause any changes in work permitting requirements. This legislation deals only with the licensing of Plumbers and Plumbing Contractors.
- This legislation would provide a clear and unobstructed path for those wishing to enter the plumbing field by establishing guidelines for training and licensing. Young people are often misled by so called "trade schools" that are not qualified, certified, or registered and offer no credentials for the person to seek employment after investing time and money into false promises.
- This legislation would generate millions of dollars annually in licensing fees for the Commonwealth.
- With carefully crafted and liberal grandfather language in the legislation, it will ensure that no one that is currently providing legal plumbing services regardless of licensing requirements in their areas of operation are affected by the passing of this Bill.
- Significant cost savings will be realized by the consumer and end user with Plumbing Contractors and Plumbers needing to obtain only one license as opposed to every jurisdiction they do business within.
- This legislation would make it easier for Pennsylvania's plumbing workforce to seek employment freely throughout our State. It would make it quicker and more expeditious for employers to hire plumbers knowing they meet the requirements for licensure under this legislation.



## Dispelling The Mythical 5-Foot Rule.

There is no such thing as a 5-foot rule. Opponents to this legislation would like you to believe that in a plumbing system, all piping 5 foot outside of a house, building or structure is not part of the plumbing system and therefore can be installed by individuals other than trained, certified, and licensed plumbers. The Pennsylvania State Uniform Construction Code (PAUCC) for Plumbing is the 2015 International Plumbing Code. The 2015 IPC and the PAUCC defines **ALL** piping work to the “public sewer or main sewer” as part of the plumbing system. Please refer to the figure below for clarification. You will see that no line of demarcation at 5 foot outside the building exists. In fact, the piping 5-foot outside is no different than the piping inside of a house, building or structure that requires a plumbing permit so therefore requires a trained, certified, and licensed plumber to install. The Plumbing Industry has repeatedly requested from the opponents to this legislation to provide written, and codified documentation that would support the existence of any such 5 foot rule.

