

- SUBJECT:** Modifying plumbing license regulation
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Smith, Kuempel, Geren, Guillen, S. Thompson
0 nays
4 absent — Gooden, Gutierrez, Miles, Price
- WITNESSES:** For — Stanley Briers, Texas Plumbing, Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association; Michael Villasana; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Leonard Aguilar, Southwest Pipe Trades Association; Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO; Jennifer Rodriguez, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association)
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Under Occupations Code, ch. 1301, a licensed master plumber who has completed certification to add a water supply protection specialist endorsement on the person’s license may install, service, and repair plumbing associated with the use and distribution of rainwater.
Sec. 1301.303 allows the board to investigate violations of plumbing regulation by a licensed plumber or an unlicensed individual performing plumbing, but not the owner of a plumbing company.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2062 would change the definition of “plumbing” in ch. 1301 to include the installation, repair, and service of equipment for rainwater harvesting. The bill would define “rainwater harvesting” to mean to capturing, diverting, storing, treating, and distributing rainwater from a roof structure for potable drinking water for personal residence or domestic use.
The water supply protection specialist endorsement on a plumbing license would authorize plumbing associated with the treatment – in addition to the use and distribution – of rainwater. “Water treatment” would not

include treatment of rainwater or the repair of systems for rainwater harvesting.

The bill would require a person performing plumbing services to give a customer an invoice or completed contract document upon the job's completion, regardless of whether a fee was charged for the service. A person holding a plumbing license or registration would have to carry the license while performing plumbing services.

The bill would extend the authority of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners to investigate not only licensed or unlicensed plumbers, but also owners of plumbing companies of alleged plumbing regulation violations.

The bill would specify that that a municipality no longer had to require permits for replacing lavatory or kitchen faucets, ballcocks, water control valves, garbage disposals, or water closets.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013, and would apply only to services performed on or after that date.