

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
83R8773 NC-F

H.B. 2028
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Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
5/8/2013
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) is responsible for fulfilling and distributing plumbing licenses in the state. Historically, TSBPE has informally accepted hours worked performing plumbing while in the military. In addition, TSBPE has rules in place to assist those individuals whose license expired while deployed. The rule allows an individual to renew his or her license so he or she may gain employment, but allows additional time for him or her to meet all renewal requirements.

Interested parties contend that because these processes and rules are not formally required in statute, and with the high unemployment rate among veterans in the state and the country, it is important for the legislature to formalize these instructions to TSBPE to credit military experience requirements for veterans applying for plumbing license in the state.

H.B. 2028 directs TSBPE to credit experience, training, or education in plumbing that a member of the armed forces, Texas National Guard, or Texas State Guard obtained while in service towards requirements for a plumber's license in this state.

H.B. 2028 amends current law relating to the eligibility requirements for plumbing licenses issued to applicants with military service.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners in SECTION 1 (Section 1301.3585, Occupations Code) and SECTION 2 of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter G, Chapter 1301, Occupations Code, by adding Section 1301.3585, as follows:

Sec. 1301.3585. **APPLICANT WITH MILITARY SERVICE.** (a) Defines, in this section, "military."

(b) Requires the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) to credit relevant experience, training, or education in plumbing that an applicant received while serving in the military toward the requirements for a license issued under this chapter.

(c) Requires TSBPE to adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. (a) Provides that Section 1301.3585, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an application for a license filed on or after May 1, 2014. Provides that an application for a license filed before May 1, 2014, is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(b) Requires TSBPE to adopt rules under Section 1301.3585, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, not later than March 1, 2014.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2013.