

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOUSANDS EXPECTED TO ATTEND PLUMBER'S RALLY ON JUNE 14TH AT THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL BUILDING TO SAVE PLUMBING LICENSES & IMPLEMENT STATE REGULATION OF THE TRADE!

We are the organizers of the Plumber's Rally scheduled for June 14th, 2019 at 11am in Austin at the Capitol Building (South Steps).

Our group has grown tremendously, and we are now anticipating based on our sign up form and other social media events there will be **THOUSANDS of plumbers and their families along with plumbing inspectors** from across the State of Texas attending the rally. We have also had plumbers out of state commit to attend. At the time of this release, there are over **62K SIGNATURES** on the petition regarding this matter in only a five day period.

This release is to inform the public of the seriousness of what is going on in the plumbing trade. **As of September 1st, 2019, the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners will be abolished and all plumbing licenses currently held will no longer be valid. There will be NO regulation of plumbers or plumbing inspectors by the State of Texas and ANY person (with NO training or experience) may then provide plumbing as a service to citizens and businesses. The official release by the State Plumbing Board is attached with information on how this has occurred within our legislature.**

WE, AS LICENSED PLUMBERS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, are rallying together to request that Governor Abbott call for a special session to implement state plumbing regulation before the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners is abolished.

IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO OUR COMMUNITIES IF NO SPECIAL SESSION IS CALLED BY THE GOVERNOR TO IMPLEMENT STATE PLUMBING REGULATION.

Plumbers protect the health and safety of the nation and plumbing is a key factor for all civilization and sanitary city infrastructure. Plumbers install and repair water systems, natural and medical gas systems, as well as sewer systems. The list is exhaustive as to why we need state regulation and oversight of the skill level required to work in this field. If nothing is done by our Governor to save the state regulation of plumbers and licensing, then many disastrous situations will occur.

Untrained individuals will legally be able to work on medical gas in hospitals, this scenario is extremely dangerous. They will be able to install water heaters in residential homes that if not performed properly could **explode** and if not vented properly could cause the **death** of homeowners. These untrained individuals will be able to make repairs to, and install water

pipng, which will cause **major property damage** without proper training. Repairs to, and the installation of natural gas piping will be allowed by these persons who have no experience which could also cause **deaths and/or major property damage** directly to the structure being worked on as well as neighboring structures. Plumbers are trained and licensed to protect from and ensure that **direct cross contamination** does not occur between **sanitary sewer** (waste) water and potable **drinking** water in our private homes and commercial buildings. The duties of a plumber encompass all of these things a great deal more that are very serious and necessary in our communities, and is a **defining factor of civilization as a whole**.

It is shocking that this could happen within our government and we as plumbers, including EVERY citizen of this state need to act quickly. Governor Abbott MUST call a special session for the **state regulation** of plumbing IMMEDIATELY and not allow such a SERIOUS and DANGEROUS situation as this to occur. We, as **LICENSED PLUMBERS OF TEXAS**, are standing up to continue to protect the health and safety of our Great State and we need all of our citizens standing with us, **including our Governor**.

We need all of Texas' help and are asking the public to contact the Governor's office at 512-463-2000 requesting he call for a special session immediately to implement plumbing regulation in our state.

We ask all news media to aid us in informing the public of what is going on and urge them to help in this matter. We are requesting the presence of all news media at the Plumber's Rally.

Location & Time:

Texas Capitol Building in Austin, South Steps Friday - June 14th, 2019 at 11am


All information regarding the **Plumber's Rally**, along with the link to the petition, may be found on our website at: www.texaslicensedplumbers.com

We are a small group of individuals in the plumbing trade organizing the rally and not a large organization, therefore we request any initial contact needed to be made with the group be done by email at: texaslicensedplumbers@gmail.com

**Plumber's Rally 2019 - A Banded Group of Texas Licensed Plumbers
#71KPLUMBSTRONG**



TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS

TSBPE  *Protecting the health and safety of Texans since 1947*

May 29, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Abolishment of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners ("Board"); Official Statement from the Office of the Executive Director.

❖ Pursuant to Section 1301.003 of the Texas Occupations Code, the Board is subject to the Sunset Act, and unless legislative action is taken, the Board is abolished, and Chapter 1301 of the Occupations Code ("Plumbing License Law" or "PLL") expires, effective September 1, 2019.

❖ The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended transferring administration and enforcement of the PLL to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation ("TDLR"). This recommendation was included in Senate Bill 621 ("SB621") during the 86th Legislature, Regular Session.

❖ On May 27, 2019, the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, finally adjourned, and the Legislature took no action to amend the Sunset Act provisions of the Plumbing License Law. As a result, the recommended transfer of the regulation of plumbing to TDLR did not occur, and the Board is set to be abolished as required by statute.

❖ As a result, **effective September 1, 2019 the Board is abolished, and all requirements of the Plumbing License Law will cease to apply.**

❖ **While the Board is abolished, it will continue to exist until no later than September 1, 2020 for purposes of concluding its business and "winding down" its operations.**

❖ Given the Legislature is no longer in session, any potential legislative action to avoid abolishment of the Board would have to take place in a special session called by Governor Abbott, in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Texas Constitution.

❖ **On and after September 1, 2019, the Board will cease to issue new licenses, or renew licenses and registrations.** Licensees and registrants up for renewal prior to that date might be tempted to avoid renewal and the renewal fee. Similarly, examinees who have successfully passed an examination and are considering whether to pay for their initial license may be considering avoiding the license and the applicable fee. However, a license or registration is still required prior to September 1, 2019 to comply with the PLL. Additionally, the Board is considering establishing a final database and roster of its licensees and registrants for historical purposes, which may be public facing and searchable even after the Board ceases operations. Individuals who wish to be included in that final roster should ensure their license or registration is current on August 31, 2019. Even beyond the anticipated abolishment of the PLL, license holders may find value in touting their previous licensure with the Board in advertising for plumbing work. Previous licensure by the Board may also become useful and may assist an individual in qualifying for licensure or otherwise meeting the requirements of a municipality, county, or other political subdivision regulating plumbing.

❖ Among its other duties during the “wind down” period, the Board intends to offer verifications of licensure upon request, which will document and evidence the individual’s license history with the Board, and may be useful in qualifying for licensure by a political subdivision of this state, or of another state. Interested individuals should make their request during the “wind down” period, or on or after September 1, 2019.

❖ **The Board will continue to administer examinations and issue licenses through August 31, 2019. However, examinations are already scheduled through that date. Taking the foregoing into consideration, effective immediately, and until further notice, the Board is no longer accepting applications to take the Tradesman Plumber-Limited, Journeyman Plumber, Master Plumber and Plumbing Inspector examinations, and all applications for license and registration endorsements.**

❖ Individuals already scheduled for an examination on or after September 1, 2019 will be placed on a “stand-by” list and offered examination roster positions prior to September 1, 2019 as they become available. Alternatively, individuals scheduled for an examination on or after September 1, 2019 may cancel their examination and seek a refund of their examination fee.

❖ Through August 31, 2019, the Board will continue to register individuals as Plumber's Apprentices.

❖ **On and after September 1, 2019, an individual does not need to be licensed by or registered with the Board to contract for, or perform, plumbing under state law.**

❖ Before that date, all current requirements of the PLL apply, and the Board will be actively administering and enforcing the PLL until September 1, 2019.

❖ During the "wind down" period (lasting until no later than September 1, 2020), the Board retains authority to prosecute violations of the Plumbing License Law occurring prior to September 1, 2019.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, commercial general liability insurance will no longer be required under state law in order to operate a plumbing company.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, there will be no state requirement for continuing education classes needed to renew a license or registration. However, the Board anticipates that Continuing Education Providers will offer classes to renew the license or registration until August 31, 2019. Licensees should contact the providers directly with questions regarding classes.

❖ On and after September 1, 2019, requirements of the PLL pertaining to municipalities and other political subdivisions will not apply, including provisions governing the issuance of permits, and restrictions on amendments to adopted plumbing codes.

❖ Other than statutory requirements which exist outside of the PLL, upon the expiration of the Plumbing License Law, regulation of plumbing will largely fall to municipalities, counties, and special districts to administer. The local authority having jurisdiction will determine any permitting and inspection requirements, including the qualifications of individuals performing plumbing inspections.

Sincerely,



Lisa G. Hill
Executive Director