Senate File 427 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 427
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1190)

(COMPANION TO 1690HV BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the licensing of plumbing, mechanical,
- 2 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic professionals,
- 3 including transition provisions, including effective date
- 4 provisions, and making penalties applicable.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. Section 91C.1, Code 2013, is amended by adding 2 the following new subsection:
- 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The labor services division of the Iowa
- 4 department of workforce development and the Iowa department of
- 5 public health will work with stakeholders to develop a plan to
- 6 combine the contractor registration and contractor licensing
- 7 application process for contractors licensed under chapter 105,
- 8 to be implemented in time for licensing renewals due July 1,
- 9 2017. The department of public health shall transfer to the
- 10 labor services division a portion of each contractor license
- 11 fee equal to three times the current contractor registration
- 12 fee. Effective July 1, 2017, a contractor licensed under
- 13 chapter 105 shall register as a contractor under this chapter
- 14 in conjunction with the contractor licensing process. At no
- 15 cost to the labor services division, the department of public
- 16 health shall collect both the registration and licensing
- 17 applications as part of one combined application. The
- 18 labor commissioner shall design the contractor registration
- 19 application form to exclude from the division of labor's
- 20 contractor registration application process those contractors
- 21 who are also covered by chapter 105. The labor commissioner
- 22 is authorized to adopt rules as needed to accomplish a merger
- 23 of the application systems including transitional registration
- 24 periods and fees.
- 25 Sec. 2. Section 105.2, subsections 1, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12,
- 26 and 17, Code 2013, are amended to read as follows:
- 27 1. "Apprentice" means any person, other than a helper,
- 28 journeyperson, or master, who, as a principal occupation,
- 29 is engaged in working as an employee of a plumbing, HVAC,
- 30 refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 31 hydronic systems contractor under the direct supervision of
- 32 either a master or a journeyperson and is progressing toward
- 33 completion of an apprenticeship training program registered by
- 34 the office of apprenticeship of the United States department of
- 35 labor while learning and assisting in the design, installation,

- 1 and repair of plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 2 hydronic systems, as applicable.
- 3. "Contractor" means a person or entity that provides
- 4 plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 5 hydronic systems services on a contractual basis and who is
- 6 paid a predetermined amount under that contract for rendering
- 7 those services.
- 8 6. "Helper" means a person engaged in general manual
- 9 labor activities who provides assistance to an apprentice,
- 10 journeyperson, or master while under the direct supervision of
- 11 a journeyperson or master.
- 12 9. "Journeyperson" means any person, other than a master,
- 13 who, as a principal occupation, is engaged as an employee of,
- 14 or otherwise working under the direction of, a master in the
- 15 design, installation, and repair of plumbing, mechanical, HVAC,
- 16 refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic systems, as applicable.
- 17 10. "Master" means any person who works in the planning
- 18 or superintending of the design, installation, or repair of
- 19 plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 20 hydronic systems and is otherwise lawfully qualified to conduct
- 21 the business of plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 22 sheet metal, or hydronic systems, and who is familiar with the
- 23 laws and rules governing the same.
- 24 11. "Mechanical professional" means a person engaged in the
- 25 HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic industry.
- 26 12. "Mechanical systems" means HVAC, refrigeration, sheet
- 27 metal, and hydronic systems.
- 28 17. "Routine maintenance" means the maintenance, repair,
- 29 or replacement of existing fixtures or parts of plumbing,
- 30 mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 31 systems in which no changes in original design are made.
- 32 Fixtures or parts do not include smoke and fire dampers, or
- 33 water, gas, or steam piping permanent repairs except for traps
- 34 or strainers. "Routine maintenance" shall include emergency
- 35 repairs, and the board shall define the term "emergency repairs"

- 1 to include the repair of water pipes to prevent imminent
- 2 damage to property. "Routine maintenance" does not include the
- 3 replacement of furnaces, boilers, cooling appliances, or water
- 4 heaters more than one hundred gallons in size.
- 5 Sec. 3. Section 105.2, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
- 6 following new subsection:
- 7 NEW SUBSECTION. 18. "Sheet metal" means heating,
- 8 ventilation, air conditioning, pollution control, fume hood
- 9 systems and related ducted systems or installation of equipment
- 10 associated with any component of a sheet metal system. "Sheet
- 11 metal excludes refrigeration and electrical lines and all
- 12 natural gas, propane, liquid propane, or other gas lines
- 13 associated with any component of a sheet metal system.
- 14 Sec. 4. Section 105.3, subsection 7, Code 2013, is amended
- 15 to read as follows:
- 16 7. The board may maintain a membership in any national
- 17 organization of state boards for the professions of plumbing,
- 18 mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 19 professionals, with all membership fees to be paid from funds
- 20 appropriated to the board.
- 21 Sec. 5. Section 105.4, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
- 22 to read as follows:
- 23 1. The board shall establish by rule a plumbing installation
- 24 code governing the installation of plumbing in this state.
- 25 The board shall adopt the most current version of the uniform
- 26 plumbing code and the international mechanical code, as the
- 27 state plumbing code and the state mechanical code, to govern
- 28 the installation of plumbing and mechanical systems in this
- 29 state. The board shall adopt the current version of each code
- 30 within six months of its being released. However, the board
- 31 and local jurisdictions may adopt standards that are more
- 32 restrictive. Local jurisdictions shall have until December
- 33 31, 2015, to comply with the state plumbing code and state
- 34 mechanical code.
- 35 Sec. 6. Section 105.5, Code 2013, is amended by adding the

- 1 following new subsection:
- NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The board shall adopt an industry
- 3 standardized examination for each license type. If a
- 4 standardized examination is not available for a specified
- 5 license type, the board shall work with the appropriate testing
- 6 vendor to create an examination for the specified license type.
- 7 Sec. 7. Section 105.9, subsections 6, 7, 8, and 10, Code
- 8 2013, are amended by striking the subsections.
- 9 Sec. 8. Section 105.9, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
- 10 following new subsection:
- 11 NEW SUBSECTION. 11. a. Licenses issued under this chapter
- 12 on or after July 1, 2014, shall expire on the same renewal date
- 13 every three years, beginning with June 30, 2017.
- 14 b. New licenses issued after the July 1 beginning of each
- 15 three-year renewal cycle shall be prorated using a one-sixth
- 16 deduction for each six-month period of the renewal cycle.
- 17 Sec. 9. Section 105.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2013, are
- 18 amended to read as follows:
- 19 1. Except as provided in section 105.11, a person shall
- 20 not operate as a contractor or install or repair plumbing,
- 21 mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 22 systems without obtaining a license issued by the board, or
- 23 install or repair medical gas piping systems without obtaining
- 24 a valid certification approved by the board.
- 25 2. Except as provided in section 105.11, a person shall not
- 26 engage in the business of designing, installing, or repairing
- 27 plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 28 hydronic systems unless at all times a licensed master, who
- 29 shall be responsible for the proper designing, installing, and
- 30 repairing of the HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 31 system, is employed by the person and is actively in charge of
- 32 the plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 33 hydronic work of the person. An individual who performs such
- 34 work pursuant to a business operated as a sole proprietorship
- 35 shall be a licensed master in the applicable discipline.

- 1 Sec. 10. Section 105.10, subsection 3, Code 2013, is amended
- 2 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the
- 3 following:
- 4 3. An individual holding a master mechanical license shall
- 5 not be required to get an HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 6 hydronic license in order to design, install, or repair the
- 7 work defined in this chapter as mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration,
- 8 sheet metal, or hydronic work. An individual holding a
- 9 journey mechanical license shall not be required to get an
- 10 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic license in order
- 11 to install and repair the work defined in this chapter as
- 12 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic work.
- 13 An individual holding a master or journey mechanical license
- 14 shall also not be required to obtain a special, restricted
- 15 license that is designated as a sublicense of the mechanical,
- 16 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic licenses.
- 17 Sec. 11. Section 105.10, subsection 5, Code 2013, is amended
- 18 by striking the subsection.
- 19 Sec. 12. Section 105.11, subsections 1, 7, and 10, Code
- 20 2013, are amended to read as follows:
- 21 1. Apply to a person licensed as an engineer pursuant to
- 22 chapter 542B, licensed as a manufactured home retailer or
- 23 certified as a manufactured home installer pursuant to chapter
- 24 103A, registered as an architect pursuant to chapter 544A, or
- 25 licensed as a landscape architect pursuant to chapter 544B
- 26 who provides consultations or develops plans or other work
- 27 concerning plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 28 hydronic work and who is exclusively engaged in the practice of
- 29 the person's profession.
- 30 7. Require a helper engaged in general manual labor
- 31 activities while providing assistance to an apprentice,
- 32 journeyperson, or master to obtain a plumbing, HVAC,
- 33 refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal,
- 34 or hydronic license. Experience as a helper shall not be
- 35 considered as practical experience for a journeyperson license.

- 1 10. Apply to the employees of manufacturers, manufacturer
- 2 representatives, or wholesale suppliers who provide
- 3 consultation or develop plans concerning plumbing, HVAC,
- 4 refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic work, or who assist
- 5 a person licensed under this chapter in the installation of
- 6 mechanical or plumbing systems.
- 7 Sec. 13. Section 105.12, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
- 8 to read as follows:
- 9 1. A contracting, plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 10 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- ll license shall be in the form of a certificate under the seal of
- 12 the department, signed by the director of public health, and
- 13 shall be issued in the name of the board. The license number
- 14 shall be noted on the face of the license.
- 15 Sec. 14. Section 105.15, Code 2013, is amended to read as
- 16 follows:
- 17 105.15 Registry of licenses.
- 18 The name, location, license number, and date of issuance of
- 19 the license of each person to whom a license has been issued
- 20 shall be entered in a registry kept in the office of the
- 21 department to be known as the plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 22 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 23 registry. The registry may be electronic and shall be open
- 24 to public inspection; however, the licensee's home
- 25 address, home telephone number, and other personal information
- 26 as determined by rule shall be confidential.
- 27 Sec. 15. Section 105.16, Code 2013, is amended to read as
- 28 follows:
- 29 105.16 Change of residence.
- 30 If a person licensed to practice as a contractor or a
- 31 plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration,
- 32 sheet metal, or hydronic professional under this chapter
- 33 changes the person's residence or place of practice, the person
- 34 shall so notify the board.
- 35 Sec. 16. Section 105.17, Code 2013, is amended to read as

-6-

- 1 follows:
- 2 105.17 Preemption of local licensing requirements.
- 3 1. The provisions of this chapter regarding the licensing of
- 4 plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration,
- 5 sheet metal, and hydronic professionals and contractors shall
- 6 supersede and preempt all plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 7 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, hydronic,
- 8 and contracting licensing provisions of all governmental
- 9 subdivisions.
- 10 a. A governmental subdivision that issues licenses on
- 11 July 1, 2008, shall continue to issue licenses until June 30,
- 12 2009. On July 1, 2009, all plumbing and mechanical licensing
- 13 provisions promulgated by any governmental subdivision shall
- 14 be null and void, except reciprocal licenses as provided in
- 15 section 105.21, and of no further force and effect.
- 16 b. On and after July 1, 2008, a governmental subdivision
- 17 shall not prohibit a contractor or a plumbing, HVAC,
- 18 refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal,
- 19 or hydronic professional licensed pursuant to this chapter
- 20 from performing services for which that person is licensed
- 21 pursuant to this chapter or enforce any plumbing and
- 22 mechanical licensing provisions promulgated by the governmental
- 23 subdivision against a person licensed pursuant to this chapter.
- 24 2. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit a governmental
- 25 subdivision from assessing and collecting permit fees or
- 26 inspection fees related to work performed by plumbers and
- 27 mechanical plumbing, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet
- 28 metal, or hydronic professionals.
- 29 Sec. 17. Section 105.18, subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph
- 30 1, Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 31 The board shall issue separate master licenses for plumbing,
- 32 HVAC, refrigeration mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet
- 33 metal, and hydronic professionals and for contractors. The
- 34 board shall issue journeyperson licenses for plumbing,
- 35 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, and hydronic

- 1 professionals. A plumbing license shall allow an individual
- 2 to perform work defined as plumbing. A mechanical license
- 3 shall allow an individual to perform work defined as
- 4 HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, and hydronic. An
- 5 HVAC-refrigeration license shall allow an individual to perform
- 6 work defined as HVAC and refrigeration. A hydronic license
- 7 shall allow an individual to perform work defined as hydronic.
- 8 A sheet metal license shall allow an individual to perform work
- 9 defined as sheet metal. The board shall issue the separate
- 10 licenses as follows:
- 11 Sec. 18. Section 105.18, subsection 2, paragraph a,
- 12 subparagraph (2), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 13 (2) Certify that the person will work under the direct
- 14 supervision of a licensed journeyperson or master in the
- 15 applicable discipline who is licensed to do the type of
- 16 work that the apprentice is performing. For the purposes of
- 17 this chapter, direct supervision means that the supervising
- 18 journeyperson or master is on the same job site as the
- 19 apprentice.
- Sec. 19. Section 105.18, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
- 21 2013, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:
- 22 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (3) An individual who has passed
- 23 both the journeyperson HVAC-refrigeration examination and
- 24 the journeyperson hydronic examination separately shall
- 25 be qualified to be issued a journeyperson mechanical
- 26 license without having to pass the journeyperson mechanical
- 27 examination.
- 28 Sec. 20. Section 105.18, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code
- 29 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 30 c. Master license. (1) In order to be licensed by the
- 31 board as a master, a person shall do all of the following:
- 32 (1) (a) File an application and pay application fees as
- 33 established by the board, which application shall establish
- 34 that the person meets the minimum educational and experience
- 35 requirements adopted by the board.

- 1 (2) (b) Pass the state master licensing examination for the
- 2 applicable discipline.
- 3 (3) (c) Provide evidence to the board that the person
- 4 has previously been a licensed journeyperson or master in the
- 5 applicable discipline.
- 6 (2) An individual who has passed both the master
- 7 HVAC-refrigeration examination and the master hydronic
- 8 examination separately shall be qualified to be issued a master
- 9 mechanical license without having to pass the master mechanical
- 10 examination.
- 11 Sec. 21. Section 105.18, subsection 2, paragraph d,
- 12 subparagraph (1), Code 2013, is amended by striking the
- 13 subparagraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
- 14 (1) File an application and pay application fees as
- 15 established by the board and establish that the person meets
- 16 the minimum requirements adopted by the board. Through
- 17 June 30, 2016, the application shall include the person's
- 18 state contractor registration number. After July 1, 2017,
- 19 the application shall include proof of workers compensation
- 20 insurance coverage, proof of unemployment insurance compliance,
- 21 and, for out-of-state contractors, a bond as described in
- 22 chapter 91C.
- 23 Sec. 22. Section 105.18, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
- 24 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 25 b. Special, restricted license. The board may by rule
- 26 provide for the issuance of special plumbing and mechanical
- 27 professional licenses authorizing the licensee to engage in a
- 28 limited class or classes of plumbing or mechanical professional
- 29 work, which class or classes shall be specified on the license.
- 30 Each licensee shall have experience, acceptable to the board,
- 31 in each such limited class for which the person is licensed.
- 32 The board shall designate each special, restricted license to
- 33 be a sublicense of either a plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 34 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 35 license. A special, restricted license may be a sublicense of

- 1 multiple types of licenses. An individual holding a master
- 2 or journeyperson, plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, mechanical,
- 3 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic license shall not
- 4 be required to obtain any special, restricted license which is
- 5 a sublicense of the license that the individual holds. Special
- 6 plumbing and mechanical professional licenses shall be issued
- 7 to employees of a rate-regulated gas or electric public utility
- 8 who conduct the repair of appliances. "Repair of appliances"
- 9 means the repair or replacement of mechanical connections
- 10 between the appliance shutoff valve and the appliance and
- 11 repair of or replacement of parts to the appliance. Such
- 12 special, restricted license shall require certification
- 13 pursuant to industry-accredited certification standards.
- 14 Sec. 23. Section 105.18, subsection 3, paragraph d, Code
- 15 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 16 d. An individual that holds either a master or
- 17 journeyperson HVAC license or a master or journeyperson
- 18 refrigeration mechanical license or a master or journeyperson
- 19 HVAC-refrigeration license shall be exempt from having to
- 20 obtain a special electrician's license pursuant to chapter 103
- 21 in order to perform disconnect and reconnect of existing air
- 22 conditioning and refrigeration systems.
- 23 Sec. 24. Section 105.18, subsection 4, Code 2013, is amended
- 24 by striking the subsection.
- Sec. 25. Section 105.19, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2013, are
- 26 amended to read as follows:
- 2. If the applicant is engaged in plumbing, mechanical,
- 28 HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic work individually
- 29 through a business conducted as a sole proprietorship, the
- 30 applicant shall personally obtain the insurance and surety
- 31 bond required by this section. If the applicant is engaged in
- 32 the plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 33 hydronic business as an employee or owner of a legal entity,
- 34 then the insurance and surety bond required by this section
- 35 shall be obtained by the entity and shall cover all plumbing or

- 1 mechanical work performed by the entity.
- 2 3. The insurance and surety bond shall be written by an
- 3 entity licensed to do business in this state and each licensed
- 4 contractor shall maintain on file with the board a certificate
- 5 evidencing the insurance providing that the insurance or surety
- 6 bond shall not be canceled without the entity first giving
- 7 fifteen ten days' written notice to the board.
- 8 Sec. 26. Section 105.20, subsection 3, Code 2013, is amended
- 9 to read as follows:
- 10 3. a. The board shall notify each licensee by mail at least
- 11 sixty days prior to the expiration of a license.
- 12 b. This subsection is repealed effective December 31, 2016.
- 13 Sec. 27. Section 105.21, Code 2013, is amended to read as
- 14 follows:
- 15 105.21 Reciprocal licenses.
- 16 The board may license without examination a nonresident
- 17 applicant who is licensed under plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 18 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 19 professional licensing statutes of another state having similar
- 20 licensing requirements as those set forth in this chapter and
- 21 the rules adopted under this chapter if the other state grants
- 22 the same reciprocal licensing privileges to residents of Iowa
- 23 who have obtained Iowa plumbing or mechanical professional
- 24 licenses under this chapter. The board shall adopt the
- 25 necessary rules, not inconsistent with the law, for carrying
- 26 out the reciprocal relations with other states which are
- 27 authorized by this chapter.
- Sec. 28. Section 105.22, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2013,
- 29 is amended to read as follows:
- 30 A license to practice as a contractor or as a plumbing, HVAC,
- 31 refrigeration, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal,
- 32 or hydronic professional may be revoked or suspended, or an
- 33 application for licensure may be denied pursuant to procedures
- 34 established pursuant to chapter 272C by the board, or the
- 35 licensee may be otherwise disciplined in accordance with that

- 1 chapter, when the licensee commits any of the following acts
- 2 or offenses:
- 3 Sec. 29. Section 105.22, subsection 8, Code 2013, is amended
- 4 to read as follows:
- 5 8. Aiding and abetting a person who is not licensed pursuant
- 6 to this chapter in that person's pursuit of an unauthorized and
- 7 unlicensed plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet
- 8 metal, or hydronic professional practice.
- 9 Sec. 30. Section 105.25, Code 2013, is amended to read as
- 10 follows:
- 11 105.25 Advertising violations penalties.
- 12 1. Only a person who is duly licensed pursuant to this
- 13 chapter may advertise the fact that the person is licensed as a
- 14 contractor or as a plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, mechanical,
- 15 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic professional by
- 16 the state of Iowa.
- 2. All written advertisements distributed in this state by a
- 18 person who is engaged in the business of designing, installing,
- 19 or repairing plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 20 hydronic systems shall include the listing of at least one
- 21 master the contractor license number, as applicable. A master
- 22 plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or hydronic professional shall
- 23 not allow the master's license number to be used in connection
- 24 with the advertising for more than one person engaged in the
- 25 business of designing, installing, or repairing plumbing, HVAC,
- 26 refrigeration, or hydronic systems.
- 27 3. A person who fraudulently claims to be a licensed
- 28 contractor or a licensed plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration,
- 29 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 30 professional pursuant to this chapter, either in writing,
- 31 cards, signs, circulars, advertisements, or other
- 32 communications, is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.
- 33 4. A person who fraudulently lists a contractor or a master
- 34 plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or hydronic license number in
- 35 connection with that person's advertising or falsely displays

- 1 a contractor or a master plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or
- 2 hydronic professional license number is quilty of a simple
- 3 misdemeanor. In order to be entitled to use a license number
- 4 of a master plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or hydronic
- 5 professional, the master plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or
- 6 hydronic professional must be employed by the person in whose
- 7 name the business of designing, installing, or repairing
- 8 plumbing or mechanical systems is being conducted. A person
- 9 who fraudulently lists a license number in connection with that
- 10 person's advertising or falsely displays a license number is
- 11 guilty of a simple misdemeanor.
- 12 Sec. 31. Section 105.29, Code 2013, is amended to read as
- 13 follows:
- 14 105.29 Report of violators.
- 15 Every licensee and every member of the board shall report
- 16 to the board the name of every person who is practicing
- 17 as a contractor or as a plumber or plumbing, mechanical,
- 18 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic professional
- 19 without a license issued pursuant to this chapter pursuant
- 20 to the knowledge or reasonable belief of the person making
- 21 the report. The opening of an office or place of business
- 22 for the purpose of providing any services for which a license
- 23 is required by this chapter, the announcing to the public in
- 24 any way the intention to provide any such service, the use of
- 25 any professional designation, or the use of any sign, card,
- 26 circular, device, vehicle, or advertisement, as a provider of
- 27 any such services shall be prima facie evidence of engaging
- 28 in the practice of a contractor or a plumber or plumbing,
- 29 mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 30 professional.
- 31 Sec. 32. NEW SECTION. 105.31 Licenses.
- 32 l. License expiration.
- 33 a. All licenses that currently possess an expiration date
- 34 prior to June 30, 2014, shall be granted a one-time extension
- 35 of the expiration date to June 30, 2014, at no additional

- 1 charge or continuing education requirements. The licensees of
- 2 these licenses shall pay a full renewal fee upon renewal and
- 3 shall be issued a license with an expiration date of June 30,
- 4 2017. Applicable late renewal fees shall apply during this
- 5 period.
- 6 b. Licenses with an expiration date of July 1, 2014, or
- 7 later shall have the license renewal fee prorated using a
- 8 one-sixth deduction for each six-month period following July
- 9 1, 2014. Applicable late renewal fees shall apply during this
- 10 period. Licenses renewed through June 29, 2017, shall be
- 11 issued with an expiration date of June 30, 2017.
- 12 2. License reissue. A license reissued pursuant to this
- 13 subsection shall be for the same level of license held by the
- 14 licensee on the effective date of this Act, but may be for a
- 15 class described in paragraphs "a" through "e", if applicable. A
- 16 license shall be reissued at the date of the first renewal.
- 17 a. An individual with either an HVAC or a refrigeration
- 18 license will be issued an HVAC-refrigeration license.
- 19 b. An individual who holds an HVAC and a hydronic license
- 20 will be issued a mechanical license at the first renewal.
- 21 c. An individual who holds a refrigeration and a hydronic
- 22 license will be issued a mechanical license.
- 23 d. An individual who holds only a hydronic license will be
- 24 issued a hydronic license.
- 25 e. An individual who holds an HVAC or a refrigeration
- 26 license may take the hydronic test before June 30, 2014, in
- 27 order to be issued a mechanical license at the time of renewal.
- 28 Sec. 33. NEW SECTION. 105.32 Transition provisions.
- 29 A licensee whose license expires between June 30, 2014, and
- 30 July 1, 2017, may voluntarily renew their license early so they
- 31 may have an expiration date of June 30, 2017. This voluntary
- 32 early renewal may happen at any time on or after July 1, 2014.
- 33 The department shall promulgate rules that allow for this
- 34 one-time early renewal process, including fees and continuing
- 35 education requirements.

- 1 Sec. 34. Section 331.301, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code 2 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 b. A county shall not impose any fee or charge on any
- 4 individual or business licensed by the board for the right to
- 5 perform plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal
- 6 or hydronic systems work within the scope of the license. This
- 7 paragraph does not prohibit a county from charging fees for the
- 8 issuance of permits for, and inspections of, work performed in
- 9 its jurisdiction.
- 10 Sec. 35. Section 364.3, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
- 11 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 12 b. A city shall not impose any fee or charge on any
- 13 individual or business licensed by the board for the right to
- 14 perform plumbing, mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal
- 15 or hydronic systems work within the scope of the license. This
- 16 paragraph does not prohibit a city from charging fees for the
- 17 issuance of permits for, and inspections of, work performed in
- 18 its jurisdiction.
- 19 Sec. 36. EMERGENCY RULES. The plumbing and mechanical
- 20 systems board may adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4,
- 21 subsection 3, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b",
- 22 to implement the provisions of this Act and the rules shall
- 23 be effective immediately upon filing unless a later date is
- 24 specified in the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with
- 25 this section shall also be published as a notice of intended
- 26 action as provided in section 17A.4.
- 27 Sec. 37. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed
- 28 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.
- 29 EXPLANATION
- 30 This bill makes changes relating to the licensing of
- 31 plumbing, mechanical, HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 32 hydronic professionals, and includes transition provisions.
- 33 The bill redefines plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, or
- 34 hydronic systems professionals as plumbing, mechanical,
- 35 HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic professionals and

- 1 makes related changes.
- 2 A plumbing license allows an individual to perform plumbing
- 3 work. A mechanical license allows an individual to perform
- 4 HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, and hydronic work. An
- 5 HVAC-refrigeration license allows an individual to perform
- 6 HVAC and refrigeration work. A hydronic license shall allow
- 7 an individual to perform hydronic work. A sheet metal license
- 8 allows an individual to perform sheet metal work.
- 9 The bill requires that the labor services division of
- 10 the department of workforce development and the department
- 11 of public health develop a plan to combine the contractor
- 12 registration and contractor licensing application process
- 13 for contractors licensed under Code chapter 105, to be
- 14 implemented in time for licensing renewals due July 1, 2017.
- 15 The department of public health shall transfer to the labor
- 16 services division a portion of each contractor license fee
- 17 equal to three times the current contractor registration
- 18 fee. Effective July 1, 2017, a contractor licensed under Code
- 19 chapter 105 shall register as a contractor under Code chapter
- 20 91C.
- 21 The bill adds "sheet metal" to the list of licensed
- 22 professionals. The term includes heating, ventilation, air
- 23 conditioning, pollution control, fume hood systems, and related
- 24 ducted systems.
- 25 The bill requires that the board adopt the most current
- 26 version of the uniform plumbing code and the international
- 27 mechanical code. Local jurisdictions must comply with the
- 28 state plumbing code and state mechanical code, as provided for
- 29 in the bill, by December 31, 2015. However, the bill provides
- 30 that the board and local jurisdictions may adopt standards that
- 31 are more restrictive.
- 32 The bill requires that the board adopt an industry
- 33 standardized examination for each license type. If a
- 34 standardized examination is not available for a specified
- 35 license type, the board shall work with the testing vendor to

- 1 create an examination for the specified license type.
- 2 The bill requires that an apprentice work under the direct
- 3 supervision of an appropriately licensed journeyperson or
- 4 master who is on the same job site.
- 5 The bill provides that an individual who has passed both
- 6 the journeyperson HVAC-refrigeration examination and the
- 7 journeyperson hydronic examination separately shall be
- 8 issued a journeyperson mechanical license without having to
- 9 pass an examination. An individual who has passed both the
- 10 master HVAC-refrigeration examination and the master hydronic
- 11 examination separately shall be issued a master mechanical
- 12 license without having to pass an examination.
- Relating to the use of master license numbers in
- 14 advertising, the bill requires a contractor license number,
- 15 instead of master license number, in written advertisements and
- 16 also eliminates a current provision that prohibited the use of
- 17 a master's license number in connection with the advertising
- 18 for more than one person engaged in the business.
- 19 The bill repeals, effective December 31, 2016, the
- 20 requirement that the board notify each licensee by mail at
- 21 least 60 days before the licensee's license expires.
- 22 The bill provides that all licenses that currently possess
- 23 an expiration date prior to June 30, 2014, shall be granted a
- 24 one-time extension of the expiration date to June 30, 2014,
- 25 at no additional charge. Licenses issued on or after July
- 26 1, 2014, shall expire on the same renewal date every three
- 27 years, beginning with June 30, 2017. Licensees whose licenses
- 28 have an expiration date of July 1, 2014, or later shall be
- 29 issued a license with an expiration date of June 30, 2017,
- 30 and shall have the license renewal fee prorated. These
- 31 licensees may also voluntarily renew their licenses early and
- 32 be issued a license with a June 30, 2017, expiration date.
- 33 Licenses renewed through June 29, 2017, shall be issued with an
- 34 expiration date of June 30, 2017.
- 35 At the time of license renewal:

- a. An individual with either an HVAC or a refrigeration
- 2 license will be issued an HVAC-refrigeration license.
- 3 b. An individual who holds an HVAC and a hydronic license
- 4 will be issued a mechanical license at the first renewal.
- 5 c. An individual who holds a refrigeration and a hydronic
- 6 license will be issued a mechanical license.
- 7 d. An individual who holds only a hydronic license will be
- 8 issued a hydronic license.
- 9 e. An individual who holds an HVAC or a refrigeration
- 10 license may take the hydronic test before June 30, 2014, in
- ll order to be issued a mechanical license.
- 12 The bill exempts a holder of a mechanical license from the
- 13 requirement to also hold an HVAC-refrigeration, sheet metal, or
- 14 hydronic license in order to perform that work.
- 15 In addition to the administrative penalties set out in
- 16 Code chapter 272C, relating to licensees, Code chapter 105
- 17 makes it a simple misdemeanor for a person to claim to be a
- 18 mechanical, HVAC, refrigeration, sheet metal, or hydronic
- 19 contractor or professional. A simple misdemeanor is punishable
- 20 by confinement for no more than 30 days or a fine of at least
- 21 \$65 but not more than \$625 or both.