

House Bill 772

By: Representatives Sims of the 167th, Lewis of the 14th, Stokes of the 92nd and Mosley of the 171st

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and
3 utility contractors, so as to change the provisions relating to continuing education; to provide
4 qualifications for licensure as an electrical contractor, plumber, or conditioned air contractor;
5 to provide for the effect of the death of a licensee; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 14 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical
10 contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility
11 contractors, is amended by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (d) of Code Section 43-14-6,
12 relating to powers and duties of divisions, and inserting in its place the following:
13 "(a)(1) With respect to Conditioned Air Contractor Class I and Class II licenses, the
14 Division of Conditioned Air Contractors shall ~~be authorized to~~ require persons seeking
15 renewal of licenses to complete board approved continuing education of not more than
16 four eight hours annually or 16 hours every two years. The division shall be authorized
17 to approve courses offered by institutions of higher learning, ~~vocational technical schools~~
18 technical colleges, and trade, technical, or professional organizations; provided, however,
19 that continuing education courses or programs related to conditioned air contracting
20 provided or conducted by public utilities, equipment manufacturers, or institutions under
21 the State Board of Technical and Adult Education shall constitute acceptable continuing
22 professional education programs for the purposes of this subsection. Continuing
23 education courses or programs shall be in the areas of safety, technological advances,
24 business management, or government regulation. Courses or programs conducted by
25 manufacturers specifically to promote their products shall not be approved."

SECTION 2.

1 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of Code Section
2 43-14-6, relating to powers and duties of divisions, and inserting in its place the following:

3 "(e)(1) With respect to Electrical Contractor Class I and Class II licenses, the Division
4 of Electrical Contractors shall ~~be authorized to~~ require persons seeking renewal of
5 licenses to complete board approved continuing education of not more than ~~four~~ eight
6 hours annually or 16 hours every two years. The division shall be authorized to approve
7 courses offered by institutions of higher learning, ~~vocational-technical schools~~ technical
8 colleges, schools, or institutes, and trade, technical, or professional organizations;
9 provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related to electrical
10 contracting provided or conducted by public utilities, equipment manufacturers, or
11 institutions under the State Board of Technical and Adult Education shall constitute
12 acceptable continuing professional education programs for the purposes of this
13 subsection. Continuing education courses or programs conducted by manufacturers
14 specifically to promote their products shall not be approved."

SECTION 3.

16 Said chapter is further amended by striking paragraph (1) of subsection (g) of Code Section
17 43-14-6, relating to powers and duties of divisions, and inserting in its place the following:

18 "(g)(1) With respect to Journeyman Plumber, Master Plumber Class I, and Master
19 Plumber Class II licenses, the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers
20 shall ~~be authorized to~~ require persons seeking renewal of such licenses to complete board
21 approved continuing education of not more than ~~four~~ eight hours annually or 16 hours
22 every two years. The division shall be authorized to approve courses offered by
23 institutions of higher learning, ~~vocational-technical schools~~ technical colleges, schools,
24 or institutes, and trade, technical, or professional organizations; provided, however, that
25 continuing education courses or programs related to plumbing provided or conducted by
26 institutions under the State Board of Technical and Adult Education shall constitute
27 acceptable continuing professional education programs for the purposes of this
28 subsection."

SECTION 4.

30 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection (h) to Code Section 43-14-6,
31 relating to powers and duties of divisions, to read as follows:

32 "(h) All continuing education courses shall be conducted by a technical college, school,
33 or institute, a professional trade association, or a professional training school. Any
34 continuing education course on electrical codes, plumbing codes, gas codes, or conditioned

1 air codes shall be taught by an instructor with a valid state license in the area being taught
2 and the instructor must document teaching and training experience with a minimum of five
3 years of experience. Continuing education must be related to the appropriate field and may
4 include applicable state, national, or international codes, installation practices,
5 Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, safety, business regulations,
6 computer courses, or bidding and load calculations."

7 **SECTION 5.**

8 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code Section 43-14-6.1 to read as follows:
9 "43-14-6.1.

10 (a) Applicants for a license as an Electrical Contractor Class I or an Electrical Contractor
11 Class II must be 21 years old and meet one of the following requirements:

12 (1) Possess a diploma or degree from a technical college, school, or institute in the
13 electrical field with a minimum of 1,200 contact hours and document a minimum of two
14 years of electrical field experience in an industrial plant as an industrial electrician or
15 with a commercial electrical contracting company as a journeyman electrician;

16 (2) Have four years of electrical experience after completion of an approved electrical
17 apprenticeship program; or

18 (3) Have six years of electrical experience under a licensed electrician who possesses a
19 valid state electrical contractor's license of the class for which the applicant is applying
20 if the applicant does not have a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute in
21 the electrical field with a minimum of 1,200 contact hours.

22 Documentation can be provided by a supervisor, plant engineer, or electrical contractor at
23 the applicant's place of employment. All applicants must complete a minimum of 75
24 contact hours in an electrical examination preparation course conducted by an approved
25 sponsor covering the National Electrical Code, rules and regulations, and business practices
26 prior to being accepted for the state electrical examination. Each applicant must meet the
27 requirement of experience in the areas designated by the board.

28 (b) Applicants for a license as a Master Plumber Class I must be 21 years old and meet one
29 of the following requirements:

30 (1) Possess a diploma or degree from a technical college, school, or institute with a
31 minimum of 1,200 contact hours in the plumbing or pipefitting field, must have
32 completed an approved plumbing apprenticeship program, and must have one year of
33 experience in the plumbing or pipefitting field in an industrial plant, in the military, or
34 with a contractor; or

1 (2) Have four years of experience in the plumbing or pipefitting field if the applicant
2 does not have a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute with a minimum of
3 1,200 contact hours.

4 All applicants must complete a minimum of 75 contact hours in a plumbing examination
5 preparation course conducted by an approved sponsor covering plumbing and gas codes,
6 applications, rules and regulations, materials and practices, and business practices. Each
7 applicant must document experience in the areas designated by the board. If a person can
8 document satisfactory performance on contracting ten plumbing jobs per year for each of
9 the preceding five years by submitting letters from the customers or building inspectors,
10 or both, such applicant shall qualify to take the Class I examination prior to December 31,
11 2001. After such date, such special exemption shall no longer be applicable.

12 (c) Applicants for a license as a Master Plumber Class II must have held a Master Plumber
13 Class I license for three years and must document experience in commercial plumbing
14 covered by the applicable state, national, or international codes as required by the
15 Construction Industry Licensing Board.

16 (d) Applicants for a license as a Journeyman Plumber must be 21 years old and meet one
17 of the following requirements:

18 (1) Possess a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute in the field of
19 plumbing or pipefitting with a minimum of 1,200 contact hours or an approved
20 apprenticeship program and one year of experience in the field of plumbing or pipefitting;
21 or

22 (2) Have three years of experience in the plumbing or pipefitting field.

23 Documentation can be from a supervisor, contractor, building inspector, or engineer. All
24 applicants must complete a minimum of 75 contact hours in a plumbing examination
25 preparation course conducted by an approved sponsor covering plumbing and gas codes,
26 applications, rules and regulations, materials and practices, and business practices. Each
27 applicant must document experience in the areas designated by the board.

28 (e) Applicants for a license as Conditioned Air Contractor Class I must be 21 years old and
29 meet one of the following requirements:

30 (1) Possess a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute or an approved
31 apprenticeship program in the field of air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration and
32 possess two years of field experience working under the supervision of a licensed
33 conditioned air contractor;

34 (2) Possess a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute and four years of
35 experience in the air conditioning and heating industry not under the supervision of a
36 licensed conditioned air contractor;

(3) Possess five years of experience in the field of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration under a licensed conditioned air contractor if the applicant does not have a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute with a minimum of 1,200 contact hours or an approved apprenticeship program; or

(4) Possess six years of experience in the field of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration if the applicant does not have a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute with a minimum of 1,200 contact hours or an approved apprenticeship program and the applicant can prove that he or she has successfully engaged in said vocation by giving evidence of ten successful jobs completed in each of the years of experience and a local business license indicating the applicant was in the air conditioning business for each of the years of experience. After December 31, 2001, all such experience must be under a licensed contractor. All applicants must complete a minimum of 75 contact hours in a conditioned air examination preparation course conducted by an approved sponsor covering conditioned air codes, applications, rules and regulations, materials and practices, and business practices. Each applicant must document experience in the areas designated by the board.

(f) Applicants for a license as Conditioned Air Contractor Class II must be 21 years old and meet one of the following requirements:

(1) Possess an advanced diploma from a technical college, school, or institute in the field of air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration and possess two years of field experience working under the supervision of a licensed conditioned air contractor;

(2) Possess five years of experience in the field of air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration under a licensed conditioned air contractor if the applicant does not have a diploma from a technical college, school, or institute in the field of air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration.

All applicants must complete a minimum of 75 contact hours in a conditioned air examination preparation course conducted by an approved sponsor covering conditioned air codes, applications, rules and regulations, materials, and business practices. Each applicant must document experience in the areas designated by the board."

SECTION 6.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code Section 43-14-8.5 to read as follows:

"43-14-8.5.

If the holder of an electrical, plumbing, or conditioned air contractor license dies and such person held the license which entitles a business to engage in such activity, the business shall remain qualified to engage in such business for a period not to exceed 12 months to

1 allow a representative of such business to take the appropriate state examination and allow
2 the business to continue to engage in such activity."

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SECTION 7.

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.