

House Bill 327 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Powell of the 23rd, Ehrhart of the 28th and Boggs of the 145th

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 provide that the term "conditioned air equipment" and the term
4 "plumbing" include natural gas piping systems on the outlet side of the gas meter; to provide
5 for period for certain businesses to continue business operations after the death of the
6 licensee; to provide for exceptions to application of the chapter; to provide an effective date;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 14 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to electrical
11 contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility
12 contractors, is amended by striking paragraphs (5) and (12) of Code Section 43-14-2, relating
13 to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof new paragraphs (5) and (12) to read as follows:
14 "(5) 'Conditioned air equipment' means heating and air-conditioning equipment covered
15 under state codes and the natural gas piping system on the outlet side of the gas meter."
16 "(12) 'Plumbing' means the practice of installing, maintaining, altering, or repairing piping
17 fixtures, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with sanitary drainage or storm
18 drainage facilities, venting systems, medical gas piping systems, natural gas piping systems
19 on the outlet side of gas meters, or public or private water supply systems within or
20 adjacent to any building, structure, or conveyance; provided, however, that after July 1,
21 1997, only master plumbers and journeyman plumbers who have been certified by the
22 Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers to perform such tasks shall be
23 authorized to install, maintain, alter, or repair medical gas piping systems. The term
24 'plumbing' also includes the practice of and materials used in installing, maintaining,
25 extending, or altering the natural gas, storm-water, ~~or~~ sewerage, and water supply systems
26 of any premises to their connection with any point of public disposal or other acceptable
27 terminal. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any person who holds a valid

1 master plumbing license or any company which holds a valid utility contractor license shall
 2 be qualified to construct, alter, or repair any plumbing system which extends from the
 3 property line up to but not within five feet of any building, structure, or conveyance,
 4 regardless of the cost or depth of any such plumbing system."

5 **SECTION 2.**

6 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (h) of Code Section 43-14-8, relating
 7 to licensing required for electrical, plumbing, or conditioned air contracting, and inserting
 8 in lieu thereof a new subsection (h) to read as follows:

9 "(h) No partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall have the right to engage
 10 in the business of conditioned air contracting unless there is regularly connected with such
 11 partnership, limited liability company, or corporation a person or persons actually engaged
 12 in the performance of such business on a full-time basis who have valid licenses issued to
 13 them as provided for in this chapter; provided, however, that partners, officers, and
 14 employees of the individual who fulfilled the licensing requirements shall continue to be
 15 authorized to engage in the business of conditioned air contracting under a license which
 16 was valid at the time of the licensee's death for a period of 90 days following the date of
 17 such death."

18 **SECTION 3.**

19 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection (p) to Code Section 43-14-13,
 20 relating to the applicability of the chapter, to read as follows:

21 "(p) This chapter shall not apply to any employee or authorized agent of a regulated gas
 22 utility or municipal owned gas utility while in the course and scope of such employment."

23 **SECTION 4.**

24 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 25 without such approval.

26 **SECTION 5.**

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