

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HB 486:

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 power and duties of the Division of Electrical
4 Contractors as to the approval of continuing education courses; to prohibit certain
5 advertisements related to electrical contracting and plumbing; to provide for related matters;
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other 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 revising subsection (e) of Code Section 43-14-6, relating to
12 powers and duties of divisions, as follows:

13 "(e)(1) The Division of Electrical Contractors shall be authorized to require persons
14 seeking renewal of Electrical Contractor Class I and Class II licenses to complete board
15 approved continuing education courses of not more than four hours annually. The
16 division shall be authorized to approve ~~courses offered by institutions of higher learning,~~
17 ~~vocational-technical schools, and trade, technical, or professional organizations;~~
18 ~~provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related to electrical~~
19 ~~contracting provided or conducted by public utilities, equipment manufacturers, or~~
20 ~~institutions under the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia shall~~
21 ~~constitute acceptable continuing professional education programs for the purposes of this~~
22 ~~subsection. Continuing education courses or programs conducted by manufacturers~~
23 ~~specifically to promote their products shall not be approved~~ continuing education courses
24 to be held within or outside this state that are available to all licensed electrical
25 contractors on a reasonable nondiscriminatory fee basis. Any request for division
26 approval of a continuing education course shall be submitted in a timely manner with due

27 regard for the necessity of investigation and consideration by the division. The division
 28 may contract with institutions of higher learning, professional organizations, or other
 29 qualified persons to provide programs that meet the requirements of this paragraph and
 30 any rules or regulations established by the division. Such programs shall be
 31 self-sustaining by the individual fees set and collected by the provider of the program.

32 (2) The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education requirements in
 33 cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances as the division
 34 deems appropriate."

35 SECTION 2.

36 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (b) of Code Section 43-14-8,
 37 relating to licensing required for electrical, plumbing, or conditioned air contracting,
 38 businesses conducted by partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations,
 39 applications, and review courses, as follows:

40 "(a)(1) No person shall engage in the electrical contracting business as an electrical
 41 contractor unless such person has a valid license from the Division of Electrical
 42 Contractors and a certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division
 43 pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6.

44 (2) A person who is not licensed as an electrical contractor or who does not have a
 45 certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division pursuant to
 46 subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6, or both as may be applicable, shall be prohibited
 47 from advertising in any manner that such person is in the business or profession of
 48 electrical contracting unless such person is a licensed electrical contractor.

49 (b)(1) No person shall engage in the business of plumbing as a master plumber unless
 50 such person has a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman
 51 Plumbers.

52 (2) No person shall engage in the business of plumbing as a journeyman plumber unless
 53 such person has a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman
 54 Plumbers.

55 (3) A person who does not have a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers
 56 and Journeyman Plumbers shall be prohibited from advertising in any manner that such
 57 person is in the business or profession of plumbing as a master plumber or journeyman
 58 plumber unless such person is licensed by the Division of Master Plumbers and
 59 Journeyman Plumbers."

60 SECTION 3.

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