

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

SENATE.

No. 149

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND NINE.

---

AN ACT relative to the Licensing of Plumbers and the Super-  
vision of the Business of Plumbing.

---

*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. No person, firm or corporation shall engage in  
2 or work at the business of plumbing, either as a master or  
3 employing plumber, or as a journeyman plumber, unless he  
4 or it has received a license or certificate therefor in accord-  
5 ance with the provisions of this chapter. The words "prac-  
6 tical plumber," as used in this chapter, shall mean a person  
7 who has learned the business of plumbing by working for  
8 at least two years as an apprentice or under a verbal agree-  
9 ment for instruction, and who has then worked for at least  
10 one year as a first-class journeyman plumber. The word

11 "journeyman," as used in this chapter, shall mean a person  
12 who himself does any work in plumbing which is by law,  
13 ordinance, by-law, rule or regulation subject to inspection.

Sect. 2. Any person who, not having been engaged in or  
2 working at the business of plumbing prior to the time when  
3 this act takes effect, desires to engage in or work at said  
4 business, either as a master or employing plumber, or as a  
5 journeyman plumber, shall apply to the board of health of the  
6 city or town in which he intends to engage in or work at  
7 said business, or to the inspector of plumbing in cities or  
8 towns in which such inspector has control of the enforcement  
9 of the regulations relative to plumbing, and shall, at a time  
10 and place designated by the board of examiners provided for  
11 in the following section, to whom such applications shall be  
12 referred, be examined as to his qualifications for such busi-  
13 ness; provided, however, that all persons actually engaged in  
14 business as master or employing plumbers or as journeymen  
15 plumbers in this State at the time this act takes effect, shall  
16 be entitled to receive such license from the board of health  
17 or inspector of plumbing, without examination, upon ap-  
18 plication and payment of fees as herein provided. In the  
19 case of a firm or corporation, the examination and licensing  
20 of, or the registration of and granting a license to, any one  
21 member of the firm or the manager of the corporation, shall  
22 satisfy the requirements of this act. The fee for a license for  
23 a master or employing plumber shall be two dollars; for a

24 journeyman plumber it shall be fifty cents. Said license shall  
25 be valid and have force throughout the State.

Sect. 3. In every city, and in every town of five thousand  
2 inhabitants or more, and in every city or town where there  
3 is a system of water supply or sewerage, there shall be a  
4 board of examiners of plumbers consisting of the chairman,  
5 or such other member of the board of health as said board  
6 may designate, the inspector of buildings in cities or towns  
7 having such inspector, and the inspector of plumbing. If, in  
8 any city or town there is no inspector of buildings, the board  
9 of health shall also appoint the second member of said board  
10 of examiners. Any member of any such board of examin-  
11 ers appointed from and by the board of health of any city  
12 or town as aforesaid, shall hold office for the term of one year  
13 and shall be paid by the city or town so appointing him a  
14 reasonable compensation not to exceed five dollars for each  
15 day of actual service.

Sect. 4. The board of examiners shall, annually, as soon  
2 as may be after their appointment, and not later than the  
3 first day of May, choose a chairman, and shall then designate  
4 the times and places for the examination of all applicants for  
5 licenses to engage in or work at the business of plumbing  
6 within their respective cities or towns. The board shall ex-  
7 amine each applicant as to his practical knowledge of plumb-  
8 ing, house drainage and plumbing ventilation, shall subject  
9 him to a satisfactory practical test, and if satisfied of his  
10 competence shall so certify to the board of health or inspector

11 of plumbing, who shall, thereupon, issue to him a license,  
12 authorizing him to engage in or work at the business of  
13 plumbing, either as a master or employing plumber, or as a  
14 journeyman plumber. Said licenses shall be valid and have  
15 force throughout the State, and shall be renewed annually  
16 upon payment of a fee of fifty cents. Upon the removal of  
17 a licensee from the city or town of the board or inspector is-  
18 suing the original license, it may be renewed by any board  
19 having like authority. The fee for a license for a master  
20 or employing plumber shall be two dollars, and for a jour-  
21 neyman plumber fifty cents.

Sect. 5. The board of health of each city or town which  
2 is subject to the provisions of this chapter, shall, within three  
3 months after the provisions of this chapter take effect, and  
4 thereafter, whenever necessary, appoint one or more in-  
5 spectors of plumbing, who shall be practical plumbers, or  
6 competent men, who may or may not be residents of the  
7 town or city for which they are appointed, and who shall  
8 hold office until removed by said board for cause shown.  
9 The compensation of such inspectors shall be determined by  
10 the board appointing them, and shall be paid from the treas-  
11 ury of their respective cities or towns. Said inspectors shall  
12 inspect all plumbing for which permits are granted within  
13 their respective cities or towns, which is in process of con-  
14 struction, alteration or repair, and shall report to said board  
15 all violations of any law, ordinance, by-law, rule or regula-  
16 tion relative to plumbing; and also perform such other ap-

17 appropriate duties as may be required. The approval of  
18 plumbing by any inspector other than those provided for by  
19 this chapter shall not be a compliance with the provisions  
20 hereof.

Sect. 6. No inspector of plumbing shall inspect or ap-  
2 prove any plumbing work done by himself, or by any person  
3 by whom he is employed, or who is employed by or with him,  
4 but in a city or town which is subject to the provisions of  
5 this chapter, the board of health shall appoint an additional  
6 inspector of plumbing, in the same manner and subject to the  
7 same qualifications as the regular inspector of plumbing,  
8 who shall inspect, in the manner prescribed in this chapter,  
9 plumbing done by the regular inspector or by any person by  
10 whom he is employed, or who is employed by or with him.  
11 Said additional inspector may act in case of the absence or  
12 inability of the regular inspector, and shall receive for his  
13 services the same compensation as the regular inspector for a  
14 like duty.

Sect. 7. Each city and town of five thousand inhabitants  
2 or more, or which has therein a system of water supply or  
3 sewerage, shall by ordinance or by-law, within three months  
4 from the time this act takes effect, prescribe regulations for  
5 the materials, construction, alteration, and inspection of all  
6 pipes, tanks, faucets, valves and other fixtures by and  
7 through which waste or sewage is used and carried; and  
8 shall provide that such pipes, tanks, faucets, valves or other  
9 fixtures shall not be placed in any building in such city or

10 town, except in accordance with plans approved by the in-  
11 spector of plumbing or by the board of health; and shall  
12 further provide that no plumbing shall be done, except to  
13 repair leaks, without a permit being first issued therefor.  
14 upon such terms and conditions as such cities or towns shall  
15 prescribe. The provisions of this section shall not prevent  
16 boards of health from making such regulations relative to  
17 plumbing and house drainage authorized by law prior to the  
18 time when this act takes effect, as are not inconsistent with  
19 any ordinance or by-law made under the authority of this  
20 section.

Sect. 8. Whoever violates any provision of this chapter  
2 or any ordinance, by-law or regulation made hereunder, shall  
3 be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than fifty  
4 dollars for each offense, and if he holds a license under the  
5 provisions of this chapter, his license may be revoked by the  
6 inspector or board which issued it. If the offense was com-  
7 mitted in a city or town other than that in which he received  
8 his license, the person or board authorized to grant licenses  
9 to plumbers in such city or town may forbid him to engage  
10 in or work at the business of plumbing for not more than  
11 one year in such city or town; if a registered plumber to  
12 whom a certificate has been issued violates any provision of  
13 this chapter or any ordinance, by-law or regulation made  
14 hereunder, either the inspector of plumbing or board of  
15 health which issued his certificate, or the person or board  
16 authorized to grant licenses to plumbers of the city or town

17 in which the offense was committed, may forbid him to en-  
18 gage in or work at the business of plumbing in such city or  
19 town for not more than one year. Whoever engages in or  
20 works at the business of plumbing in any city or town in  
21 which he has been forbidden so to do under the provisions  
22 of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than  
23 one hundred dollars for each offense. Any city or town  
24 subject to the provisions of this chapter which refuses to  
25 comply with any of its provisions shall forfeit fifty dollars  
26 to the use of the State for each month during which such  
27 neglect continues.

Sect. 9. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all  
2 persons learning the business of plumbing when they are  
3 sent out to do the work of a journeyman plumber.

Sect. 10. Any person who now holds an appointment as  
2 inspector of plumbing, may retain his position; and, without  
3 further examination, be deemed to have been appointed under  
4 the provisions of this chapter.

Sect. 11. Inspectors of plumbing and boards of health may  
2 expend such portion of the fees collected by them under the  
3 provisions of this chapter as is necessary to properly per-  
4 form the duties imposed thereby, and they shall, annually,  
5 before the first day of June, make a full report in detail to  
6 their respective cities or towns of all their proceedings dur-  
7 ing the year under the provisions of this chapter.



Sect. 12. Municipal and police courts and trial justices  
2 shall have jurisdiction of all complaints and prosecutions  
3 under this act.

Sect. 13. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith  
2 are hereby repealed.

---

STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN SENATE,

February 8, 1909.

Came from the House referred to Committee on Legal Affairs  
and on motion by Mr. MINOTT of Cumberland tabled for  
printing pending reference in concurrence.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.