

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)

Transmitted by Director of Legislative Research pursuant to joint order.

N I N E T Y - S E V E N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1269

H. P. 1074

House of Representatives, March 9, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Stanley of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Licensing of Oil Burner Installers and Servicemen.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 82-A, additional. The revised statutes are hereby amended by adding thereto a new chapter to be numbered 82-A, to read as follows:

‘CHAPTER 82-A

LICENSING OF OIL BURNERMEN

Sec. 1. Installation. No oil burner installation shall hereafter be made for compensation, except as herein provided unless made by a person licensed by the Oil Burnermen’s Licensing Board, hereinafter created.

Sec. 2. Definitions. The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall be construed as follows:

I. “Oil burner installations” shall mean the installation, alteration or repair of oil burning heating equipment including industrial, commercial and domestic type central heating plants, and domestic type range burners and space heaters and further including all accessory equipment, control systems, whether electric, thermostatic or mechanical, and all electrical wiring in connection therewith to a suitable distribution panel or disconnect switch, but excluding all other electrical equipment or work in the building or structure where the above equipment is installed.

II. The “Board” shall mean the Oil Burnermen’s Licensing Board created under the provisions of section 3 hereof.

Sec. 3. Appointment of Oil Burnermen's Licensing Board; vacancies; removal of members; compensation. An Oil Burnermen's Licensing Board, herein called the Board, is hereby established and shall consist of a chairman who shall be the Director of State Fire Prevention and 2 other members, hereinafter called the appointive members, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. Both of said appointive members shall be oil burnermen who are active in the trade, one shall have had at least 5 years' and the other at least 10 years' experience as such. The appointive members shall be appointed for terms of 2 years, provided, however, that of the first 2 members appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of 1 year and the other for a term of 2 years. As the term of each appointive member expires, he may be reappointed or a new member appointed for a term of 2 years. Any vacancy in said Board caused by death, resignation or removal of any member shall be filled by the appointment of a person qualified to take his place, to hold office during the unexpired term of the member whose place is filled. Any member of said Board may be removed from office for cause by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council. The members of the Board shall each be allowed the sum of \$15 per day and their necessary expenses for travel, board and room while attending to the necessary duties of their office.

Sec. 4. Employees. The Board shall be empowered to appoint and remove, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, such employees as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 5. Meetings, rules and regulations. The Oil Burnermen's Licensing Board shall hold regular meetings semiannually and shall hold additional meetings at such other times and such places as it shall determine by its rules, or upon the request of the chairman or any member of the Board. Said Board shall keep proper records of its proceedings and shall be authorized to make such rules and regulations as it shall deem necessary for the holding of examinations and for the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter, and to provide for reciprocity of licensing with similar boards of other states which maintain standards at least equal to this State.

Sec. 6. Licensing of oil burnermen.

I. The Board shall, at any time prior to June 30, 1956, without examination and upon payment of a fee of \$5 issue a license to any applicant therefor who shall present satisfactory evidence that he has the qualifications for the type of license applied for and who has been engaged in the occupation or business of doing the type of oil burner installation covered by such license within the State for a period of one year prior to the effective date of this act. Any person who, being qualified to obtain a license under this subsection, is prevented from making application therefor by reason of service in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period between the effective date of this act and July 1, 1956, shall have 3 months after discharge from such service to make such application. No person shall be liable for prosecution for making oil burner installations without license during the first 6 months after the effective date of this act.

II. The Board may make such reasonable rules and regulations as it deems suitable for the issuance of various types and classes of license to cover the

various types of oil burner installations as set forth in section 2, subsection I hereof. A license may cover one or more or all types of installations or may be limited to a specific type of installation. The Board may also make such reasonable rules and regulations as it deems suitable concerning the term and type of apprenticeship required by candidates for examination.

III. The Board shall issue a license upon the payment of a fee of \$5 to any person who applies therefor and who presents evidence to the Board that he has completed a satisfactory period of apprenticeship for the type license for which application has been made and who has satisfactorily passed an examination conducted by the Board as hereinafter provided to determine his fitness to receive such license.

IV. The board shall issue an apprentice's license upon payment of a fee of \$3 to any person who applies therefor, without examination, provided that said applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the Board that he has entered the employ of a licensed oil burnerman to assist him while learning. Any such person entering the employ of such oil burnerman to assist him shall apply for an apprentice's license within 30 days after commencing such employment.

V. All persons licensed by the Board shall receive a certificate thereof under the seal of the Board, signed by the chairman, which shall state the type of license and which shall be carried upon the person of the licensee and displayed by him at any time upon request, as long as he continues in such business.

Sec. 7. Examinations. Each applicant for examination shall present to the chairman of the Board on blanks furnished by the Board a written application therefor, containing such information as the Board may require accompanied by an examination fee of \$1. In the event that a license is granted to the applicant, the examination fee shall be credited towards the payment of his license fee. Examinations shall be in whole or in part in writing at the discretion of the Board. They shall include such provisions of the standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, including such provisions of the National Electrical Code as may be applicable to oil burner installations, as the Board may deem appropriate.

Any person failing to pass such an examination may be re-examined as often as he may desire, at periods when examinations are being conducted, upon payment of the examination fee of \$1. The Board shall conduct examinations at least semiannually at such times and places as it deems appropriate.

Sec. 8. Renewal of licenses. All licenses issued as aforesaid shall expire one year from the date of issue and may be renewed thereafter for periods of one year from date without further examination upon the payment of the fees therefor as hereinabove provided. In the event that any person licensed under this chapter fails to renew his license as aforesaid, he may renew it at any time within a period of 2 years without further examination provided he presents satisfactory proof to the Board that he was so licensed.

Sec. 9. Installations to conform to standards. No oil burning equipment of whatever type may hereafter be installed in this State unless it conforms to the

standards adopted by the Board. No installation of such equipment shall hereafter be made unless such installation complies with the regulations issued by the Board.

Sec. 10. Disposal of fees. All fees received by the Board shall be paid by the chairman thereof to the Treasurer of the State and may be used for carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 11. Investigation of complaints; licenses may be revoked. The Board shall investigate all complaints made to it and all cases of noncompliance with or violation of the provisions of this chapter. The Board shall have the power to suspend or to revoke the license of any licensed oil burnerman who is found guilty of:

I. The practice of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a license;

II. Any gross negligence, incompetency or misconduct in the performance of the work of making oil burner installations. Continued failure to conform to the regulations issued by the Board shall be prima facie evidence of such gross negligence and incompetency.

Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetency or misconduct against any licensed oil burnerman. Such charges shall be in writing, and shall be sworn to by the person making them, and shall be filed with the chairman of the Board.

All charges, unless dismissed by the Board as unfounded or trivial, shall be heard by the Board within 3 months after the date on which they shall have been preferred.

The time and place for said hearing shall be fixed by the Board, and a copy of the charges, together with a notice of the time and place of hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed by registered mail to the last known address of such licensed oil burnerman at least 30 days before the date fixed for hearing. At any hearing, the accused shall have the right to appear personally and by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him, and to produce evidence and witnesses in his own defense.

After such hearing, the Board may suspend or revoke the license of such licensed oil burnerman provided that a majority of the Board vote in favor of such suspension or revocation. The Board shall furnish such licensed oil burnerman with a definite statement in writing of its findings of facts and its reason or reasons for the suspension or revocation of the license.

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Board in failing to issue a license, or suspending or revoking a license, may appeal from such decision within 30 days thereof to any Justice of the Superior Court, or Supreme Judicial Court, in term time or vacation, by certiorari, or mandamus, or by any other method permissible under the rules and practices of said courts, or the laws of this State, and said court may make such further orders in respect thereto as justice may require, provided, however, that there shall be no appeal from the failure of the Board to issue a license because an applicant has failed to pass an examina-

tion where the results of said examination have been unanimously certified by the Board to be correct.

The Board, for reasons it may deem sufficient, may reissue a certificate of registration to any person whose certificate has been revoked, providing a majority of the Board vote in favor of such reissuance.

Sec. 12. Records. The Board shall keep a record of the name and residence of all persons registered under the provisions of this chapter, and a record of all moneys received and disbursed by it, and said records or duplicates thereof shall be open for inspection during office hours.

Sec. 13. Exception. Any electrician duly licensed under the provisions of Chapter 82 of the Revised Statutes may install any of the electrical equipment or do any electrical work involved in any oil burner installation without being licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 14. Penalty for violation. Any person who makes oil burner installations for compensation without having first obtained a license hereunder or who, being himself in the business, employs a person to do such work who has not such a license, unless the work done comes within the exception set out in section 13, or procures any license wrongfully or by fraud, or violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and if convicted thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100, or by imprisonment for not more than 3 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 15. Provisions in city charters not affected. The provisions of this chapter shall not prevent the licensing of oil burnermen licensed hereunder by cities under the provisions of the charters or ordinances thereof.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 18, § 31, amended. The first sentence of section 31 of chapter 18 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'All money received by the Treasurer of State from the Board of Registration in Medicine, the Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Board of Registration of Nurses, the Board of Examiners of Applicants for Admission to the Bar, the Board of Accountancy, the Board of Veterinary Examiners, the Board of Osteopathic Examination and Registration, the Board of Examiners of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, the State Board of Registration and Examination in Optometry, the Board of Dental Examiners, the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, the State Board of Architects, the Electricians' Examining Board, **the Oil Burnermen's Licensing Board**, the State Board of Barbers and Hairdressers, the Examiners of ~~podiatrists~~ **Podiatrists**, the Board of Chiropractic Examination and Registration and the Board of Commissioners of Pharmacy shall constitute a fund, which shall be a continuous carrying account for the payment of the compensation and expenses of the members, the expenses of the board and for executing the provisions of law relating to each board respectively, and so much thereof as may be required is appropriated for said purposes.'