HOUSE RESEARCH

- Bill Summary :

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Version: First engrossment

Authors: Baker and others

Subject: Construction codes—modifying water conditioning installation requirements

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Overview

Expands the scope of work a water conditioning installer can do to include systems in multifamily homes and small commercial buildings. Creates essentially an apprenticeship system for water conditioning installers, as "registered unlicensed individuals" who must work under the direct supervision of a licensed individual. Extends continuing education requirements to all "registered unlicensed individuals."

Section

- Powers; duties; administrative support. Empowers the Plumbing Board to regulate continuing education for "registered unlicensed individuals." As written, this could be interpreted to include both those doing plumbing work and those doing water conditioning work. Currently, registered unlicensed plumbers do not have a continuing education requirement. Corrects references to types of water conditioning businesses with the titles of water conditioning professionals.
- Water conditioning installation. Expands the scope of work a water conditioning installer can do from single family homes only, to include multifamily and nonresidential buildings when certain conditions are met. Namely, a licensed plumber must have installed both (1) the building's plumbing system and (2) a valve allowing for isolation of the water conditioning system from the plumbing system, and (3) the piping in the system must be smaller than two inches (i.e. not a large industrial system).
- **Direct supervision.** Defines the requirements for "direct supervision" of water conditioning installation work.

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Section

- **Direct supervisor.** Defines who may be a "direct supervisor" for water conditioning installation work.
- **Qualifications for licensing.** Adds installation of water conditioning systems to the list of skills that must be demonstrated to earn a water conditioning master license.
- 6 **Plumber's apprentices.** Adds restricted master plumbers and restricted journeymen plumbers to the list of people who may provide direct supervision of a plumber's apprentice.
- Registered unlicensed individuals. Creates a registration requirement for people who perform water conditioning installation work without a license, essentially as apprentices. Requires that a registered unlicensed individual only do water conditioning work under the direct supervision of a licensed individual who can make sure all work is done properly and that records of this work be kept. Allows registered unlicensed individuals who have accumulated 875 hours of practical experience in the trade to take the water conditioning journeyman examination. Provides for applications and fees to become a registered unlicensed individual.