

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

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Senate Bill 827 (S-1) as referred to second House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Roger Victory

1st House Committee: Regulatory Reform

2nd House Committee: Ways and Means

Senate Committee: Regulatory Reform

Complete to 12-12-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 827 would amend the Skilled Trades Regulation Act to revise the requirements for a person to sit for an examination to obtain a mechanical contractor's license, revise the classifications and limitations of a license, and allow credit for completion of certain HVAC programs to be applied toward the hours of work experience required to sit for a mechanical contractor's license.

Article 8 of the Skilled Trades Regulation Act requires a person to obtain a mechanical contractor's license to perform installations, alterations, or servicing of designated work classifications that are regulated under the Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act. Currently, to sit for a licensing exam, the person must be of good moral character and have a minimum of three years of experience, or an equivalent of that experience that is acceptable to the Board of Mechanical Rules, in one of the designated work classifications.

Under the bill, to qualify for a work classification examination, the applicant would have to be of good moral character and meet one or more of the following:

- Have a minimum of three years or 6,000 hours in the work classification for which he is she seeking a license, or an equivalent of that experience acceptable to the board. Except in the case of equivalent experience, an applicant would have to provide to the board and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) a notarized statement from each contractor of record that is or was the applicant's employer. The statement would have to indicate that the applicant has a minimum of three years or 6,000 hours of performance in each work classification for which the applicant is seeking a license. The statement must also include a detailed and specific description of the type of work performed and the length of time the work was performed by the applicant.
- For a specific license, currently hold, and have continuously held for the three years immediately preceding the examination, an active license in a work classification and limitation as specified in the bill. For example, under the bill, to sit for an unlimited heating service classification and limitation license examination, the applicant must currently hold, and have held for the three preceding years, a limited heating service license.

The bill would also revise the classifications and limitations for a mechanical contractor license issued by LARA as follows:

- Hydronic heating and cooling and process piping.
- HVAC equipment.
- Ductwork.

- Refrigeration.
- Limited heating service.
- Limited refrigeration and air conditioning service.
- Unlimited heating service.
- Unlimited refrigeration and air conditioning service.
- Fire suppression.
- Specialty.

Further, the bill would provide a mechanism by which LARA would have to apply credit for the completion of certain HVAC programs toward the three years or 6,000 hours of work experience required to sit for a licensing exam. LARA would determine the amount to be credited, but it could not exceed one year or 2,000 hours of the three years or 6,000 hours required. In addition, the board and LARA would have to approve any two-year HVAC program that is equivalent to or exceeds the requirements imposed for similar industry-recognized apprenticeship programs by the Office of Apprenticeship of the U.S. Department of Labor.

MCL 339.5807

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

Senate Bill 827 would codify the current administrative practice of separating licensing classifications for heating and refrigeration/air conditioning. It would allow those with at least three years of experience to be licensed in additional fields and would establish a clear standard to apply educational credit toward completion of the required work hours. Importantly, it would reestablish a practice in place for at least three decades requiring that work experience for a new license application be notarized rather than allowing the more recent practice of allowing an applicant to self-certify their own work experience. The bill's revisions are hoped to improve standards for new licensees and, for some licensees, to expand the work they can do.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 827 would not have a significant fiscal impact on any unit of state or local government. The bill would be unlikely to have an appreciable impact on application volumes (and thus revenues), and any costs incurred under the bill would likely be sufficiently covered by existing appropriations.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.