



ABC OPPOSES HOUSE BILL 442

Bill Summary

House Bill 442 establishes the Plumbing Contractor Licensure Act, creating the State Board of Plumbing Contractors and providing standards for the practice of plumbing. The bill establishes fees and a process for developing standards for the licensure of plumbing services and individuals who perform such services.

ABC Position

ABC opposes House Bill 442 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in opposition to this legislation.

- **Establishes broad and ambiguous government control over private industry.** While the original intent of House Bill 442 was to provide oversight of the term “licensed plumbing contractor,” the most recent version has expanded government control over the practice of plumbing. Because the bill preserves current municipal ordinances that require a master plumber to perform permitted work, the proposed State Board of Plumbing Contractors would have control over master plumbers, thereby maintaining a strict grasp on the practice of plumbing.
- **Allows for vague and indiscriminate regulation of a vital public service.** HB 442 also allows for a wide array of offenses that may or may not merit the decision of the appointed State Board of Plumbing Contractors to deny or revoke a license. HB 442 provides no appeal process for a licensed individual to state his/her case before a suspension is issued and once a final determination is made by the board, only a ruling by the Commonwealth Court can undo such a ruling.
- **Fails to achieve uniform statewide oversight.** While the bill provides for a licensing proposal that regulates the practice of plumbing in Pennsylvania, such a license would still not permit individuals from performing work in counties of the first and second class. HB 442 would only provide an opportunity for individuals to demonstrate proficiency in those counties, but would do nothing to guarantee statewide uniformity or the ability of a licensed individual to perform plumbing services in those counties.