



## What's happening at TSBPE

### **SUMMARY: Special held TSBPE Board Meeting November 10, 2021**

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) held a special meeting on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Located at the TSBPE office on 41st street, this meeting was attend in person and held via Zoom. See the summary below:

#### **Topics/Actions:**

The TSBPE Board Chair Frank Denton called to order the meeting and he introduced incoming Board members Tommy Rice, Jr. and Darrin Black. A quorum was present with the 9th board member joining by Zoom.

**A report was given on the portion of HB 635 that created a Career and Technology Education program for a tradesman plumber - limited license. Chairman Denton stated that he has met with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and reviewed their outline of proposed curriculum (TEKES) and asked for the Board to approve them for the path to an examination for tradesman licensure. The board voted unanimously to accept the curriculum outline as presented by TEA. This will allow high schools to create plumbing programs that will provide the knowledge, hands-on lab work and partnerships with local plumbing companies that will lead the students to be able to register and take the tradesman license after two years of study. Plumbers are encouraged to reach out to their local school districts to adopt and implement this curriculum and offer to come alongside them as they develop their programs.**

One of the requests made by the legislature to TSBPE was to draft **reciprocity agreements** that would allow out of state plumbers to use their current licenses to obtain licensing in Texas. The first state under consideration is Louisiana. Other states will be added with similar licensing structures once the Louisiana process is complete.

**Several rule changes were presented to the Board for approval. The main focus centered around education requirements, time frames for renewals, military CE requirements while on active duty, the allowance of virtual learning as implemented during COVID emergency orders, and education provider and instructor changes.**

The TSBPE wishes to implement a rule change that would bring **NO MORE FEES for RENEWALS** of endorsements! The endorsement will renew each year with the license renewal. **HOWEVER**, any continuing education requirements for that endorsement will still need to be fulfilled. There will just no longer be a fee to renew the endorsement at the TSBPE level. **More information to come on this PROPOSED rule change (this must still go through the posting and public comment periods!**

Several items were also discussed that would bring Computer Based Testing (CBT) to a testing center for the written portion of the examinations. Further, a permanent testing site will be open in Waco, Texas at the TSTC campus. Also mentioned was the donation of an 18-wheeler by TSTC to allow TSBPE to outfit as a mobile testing site including the hands-on portion of the exam. This would enable TSBPE to take the entire test across the state.

The TSBPE has received the largest budget allotment for the next two years. This has allowed them more staff and IT upgrades to enable them to keep up with upcoming CPE changes.

**Lots more information to come in 2022! Your license renewal period will change as well as the choices in CPE course offerings. Stay tuned to PHCC Texas for more details.**