**Meeting Minutes for**

**Rule Change Committee**

**MEETING DETAILS**.

Date: **07/12/2022** Time:  **10:00 AM**

Location: **Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**.

Carl Bourgeois - Chair, Rickey Fabra, Trey Giglio, Mike Joiner

Guests: Ashley J. Tullier, Terry Smith

**OLD BUSINESS**.

**Item #1: Alternative Route for Apprenticeship: Indentured and Unindentured**

Statutory Changes - LA R.S. 37: 1366C and l377C

Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC § 101

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Rule Change Committee recognizes that the alternative route for apprenticeship would first need to be changed statutorily. The Rule Change Committee recommends that if the legislature redefines the definition of Apprentice to include both Indentured and Unindentured, the Board should vote to adopt regulatory rules immediately following the passing of the statutory changes.

**Item #2: Requirements to take Exam for Journeyman License**

Statutory Changes – Item #1 will first need to become an ACT

Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC § 305A1

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Rule Change Committee recognizes that the alternative route for apprenticeship would first need to be changed statutorily to allow for additional access to the journeyman plumber examination. The Rule Change Committee recommends the Board adopt the following; immediately following the passing of the statutory changes.

1. SPBLA Registered Indentured Apprentices shall have performed 7,000 hours of manual labor of plumbing under the direct on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber.

2. SPBLA Registered Unindentured Apprentices shall have performed 8,000 hours of manual labor of plumbing under the direct on-the-job supervision of a licensed journeyman plumber.

3. SPBLA Licensed Tradesman shall have performed 3,000 hours of manual labor of plumbing under the direction of a licensed master plumber if an Indentured Apprentice.

4. SPBLA Licensed Tradesman shall have performed 4,000 hours of manual labor of plumbing under the direction of a licensed master plumber if an Unindentured Apprentice.

5. Applications will no longer require vouchers with signatures by licensed plumbers.

6. Applications will still require proof of on-the-job training (OJT) hours by official payroll documentation or W-2's. Yearly W-2’s will grant no more 2,000 hours per year and the pay rate must at least equal full time pay at the state minimum wage.

**Item #3: Define "Direct on-the job supervision"**

Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC § 301 B

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change;

1. Direct on-the-job supervision means that a licensed journeyman plumber is physically present and in direct communication at the property or jobsite for residential construction and single-story or single building commercial construction, and in the same building on the same floor level for multi-level or multi-story commercial construction, where the apprentice is engaged in plumbing. A licensed journeyman plumber may supervise apprentices as governed by the workforce commission who are engaged in plumbing at a time. An apprentice doing work other than plumbing shall not be considered an apprentice for purposes of supervision

2. Same language for natural gas fitters.

**Item #4: Natural Gas Fitter Hours**

Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC § 305A.1 and 46 LAC § 307A.1

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Rule Change Committee recognizes that the alternative route for natural gas fitters would first need to be changed statutorily to include unindentured apprentices. The Rule Change Committee recommends that if the legislature redefines the definition of Apprentice to include both Indentured and Unindentured, the Board should vote that adopt regulatory rules immediately following the passing of the statutory changes as the following:

1. Recommends adding language that states gas fitter hours may be earned concurrent with earning journeyman plumber hours.

2. Natural Gas Fitter law should also be changed to reflect an unindentured on-the-job training (OJT) path to licensure as well as the indentured apprenticeship. Same rules would apply to natural gas as journeyman. On-the-job (OJT) path to licensure requires no less than 4,000 hours official payroll documentation or W-2’s. Anyone who applies for the exam with time earned prior to the law change may use W-2’s or payroll working for a Master Natural Gas Fitter, however an applicant with time accrued after the rule change must have also been registered as an apprentice for those years.

**Item #5: Define scope of work for journeyman plumber running a repair business**

Statutory Changes - LA R.S. 37:1367A(1) and (2); possibly LA R.S. 37:1377B(1) and (2)

Regulatory Changes: Possibly 46 LAC § 101 and 46 LAC § 301 E

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Rule Change Committee recognizes that the definition of repair would first need to be changed statutorily. The Rule Change Committee recommends that if the legislature redefines the definition a repair business, the Board should vote to adopt regulatory rules immediately following the passing of the statutory changes to the following:

1. Recommends changing the language to be specific to the maintenance definition and not repair. This will directly change the type of work a journeyman may do independently and without the authority of a master plumber – also known as a “repair company”. And removing them from the definition of repair. Allowing only a Tradesman the authority.

2. Recommends Attorney opinion on how this will affect how they will be able to advertise moving forward as well as ensuring that there is language that specifies, they are not able to hire apprentices.

**Item #6: Vice Chairman Procedure**

Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC § 503A2

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move forward with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change.

1. Allowing the Chairman to appoint a current a Board Member to the Vice-Chairman vacancy until the next Board Meeting, where the nomination committee will recommend the next Vice-Chairman, subject to election by the entire Board.

**Item #7: Spanish examination**

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends referring to the Advisory Committee for an opinion.

**Item #8: MP & MNGF Designation**

Regulatory Changes -46 LAC § 301E, F, G

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move forward with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change.

An employing entity must designate one responsible MP or MNGF for purposes of enforcing the ACT.

**Item #9: Job Site Signage**

Regulatory Changes -46 LAC § 301F

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change.

The signage regulations should specify that a physical address be posted on signage since the rules mandate that the licensee must have a place of business.

**Item #10: Ratio**

Regulatory Changes -46 LAC § 301 B

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move forward with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change:

1. Changing the regulatory ratio to reflect the statutory ratio and request from LWC approval for an allowance of a 2:1 ratio of two apprentices to one journeyman plumber.

**Item #11: Executive Director**

Regulatory Changes -46 LAC § 506 and 46 LAC § 701D

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move forward with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change:

Changing the Executive Director job duties to allow the Executive Director to oversee examinations in a Board Member capacity when a Board Member is unable to be present and only after notification to all Board Members.

**Item #12: Background check requirements for MP & MNGF**

Statutory Changes - LA R.S. 37:307 and 308

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends referring to the Advisory Committee for an opinion.

**Item #13: Increasing General Liability Insurance**

Statutory Changes - LA R.S. 37:1380 B(3)

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends referring to the Advisory Committee for an opinion.

**Item #14: Advisory Board Duties**

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends requiring all Advisory Committee Members to serve as examiners and attend at least one examination to be eligible to continue to sit on the Advisory Committee.

**Item #15: Advisory Board**

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends that the Board immediately move forward with the Regulatory Rule Change Process adopting the following Regulatory Rule Change:

1 .Changing the regulatory language that identifies the advisory body to the Board to reflect the Statutory language that identifies this body as the Advisory Committee.

**Item #16: Advisory Committee Special Enforcement Officers**

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends referring to the Advisory Committee for an opinion.

**Item #17: Regulatory Changes - 46 LAC Clean up**

**RECOMMENDATION**: The Committee recommends a cleanup of the Regulatory laws of any old and outdated rules directly following the passing and completion of all of the above.

**NEW BUSINESS**.

**Item #1: Advisory Committee Review**

The Advisory Board should report back no later than August 1, 2022

**Item #2: Next Rule Change Committee Meeting**

Alexandria, LA - Local 247 – August 9, 2022, 10:00am