

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 242

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator Clements

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization; and
then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §21-14-2 and §21-14-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, relating to the Division of Labor; providing definitions for plumbing work; and
3 requiring the Commissioner of Labor to propose separate rules for plumbers who work in a
4 residential dwelling or in a commercial building or facility.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.

§21-14-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 (a) "License" means a valid and current license issued by the Commissioner of Labor in
3 accordance with the provisions of this article.

4 (b) "J Journeyman plumber" means a person qualified by passage of a journeyman plumber
5 written examination with a score of at least 70 percent and who is competent to instruct and
6 supervise the work of a plumber in training.

7 (c) "Master plumber" means a person who has passed a master plumber written
8 examination with a score of at least 70 percent and who is competent to design plumbing systems,
9 and to instruct and supervise the plumbing work of journeyman plumbers, and plumbers in
10 training: *Provided*, That the master plumber written examination may not be taken until one year
11 after passage of the journeyman plumber examination.

12 (d) "Plumber in training" means a person who has not passed the journeyman plumber
13 examination: *Provided*, That the fee for plumbers in training may not be higher than \$25.00.

14 (e) "Plumbing" means the practice, materials, and fixtures utilized within a building in the
15 installation, extension, and alteration of all piping, fixtures, water treatment devices, plumbing
16 appliances, and appurtenances, in connection with sanitary drainage or storm drainage facilities;
17 the plumbing venting systems; medical gas systems; fuel oil and gas piping for residential,
18 nonresidential, commercial, and institutional facilities; backflow preventers; and public or private
19 water supply systems, as defined by the state building code.

20 (f) "Single family dwelling" means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended
21 for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

§21-14-4. Rule-making authority.

1 The Commissioner of Labor shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with
2 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, for the implementation and enforcement of the
3 provisions of this article, which shall provide:

4 (1) Standards and procedures for issuing and renewing licenses, including classifications
5 of licenses as defined in this article, applications, examinations and qualifications, including
6 separate rules for plumbers who work in a residential dwelling or in a commercial building or
7 facility;

13 (3) Reciprocity provisions;

14 (4) Procedures for investigating complaints and revoking or suspending licenses, including
15 appeal procedures;

16 (5) Fees for testing, issuance and renewal of licenses, and other costs necessary to
17 administer the provisions of this article;

18 (6) Enforcement procedures; and

19 (7) Any other rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of Labor to propose separate rules for plumbers who work in a residential dwelling or in a commercial building or facility.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.