

# Consumer Protection and Stabilization in Plumbing Joint Labor/Industry Stakeholder Supported Bill

#### First Significant Plumbing Industry Update in Over 45 Years:

• The last major revision was implemented in 1973.

### **Protects Consumers by Adding Visible Certification Requirement:**

• Certified Plumbers will be required to have their level of certification visible for the consumer to see, which will ensure that only certified plumbers are servicing consumers.

### Addresses the Shortage of Plumbers by Increasing Trainees (Ratio Changes):

• There is currently a massive shortage of certified plumbers in WA State and there are not enough to meet consumer demand. This shortage of trained certified plumbers can and will cause a health and safety challenge as consumers cannot wait, especially in an emergency, for service.

### **Creates a Residential Service Plumber (RSP) Certification:**

• Creates a new certification to perform basic residential tasks (installing or repairing a toilet, water heater, faucet, etc.) after 4,000 hours of training and passing an exam.

### Stabilizes Consumer Pricing by Using Technology to Supervise Trainees:

• Allows certified plumbers to use technological devices (phones, tablets, etc.) to remotely supervise trainees with more than 2,000 hours of training, which will significantly reduce the cost to consumers. This is because companies, and ultimately the consumer, will no longer be required to pay for two workers to perform simple repairs.

## **Strengthens and Diversifies the Advisory Board of Plumbers:**

• Two positions will be added to the Advisory Board of Plumbers: one from the Department of Health and another from the state-approved plumbing code body. These additions will bring a broader perspective to the work the Advisory Board of Plumbers does with Labor and Industries.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.phccwa.org.

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