

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
**Office of Regulatory Reinvention**  
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**REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT  
and  
COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) [1969 PA 306], the department/agency responsible for promulgating the administrative rules must complete and submit this form electronically to the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) no less than (28) days before the public hearing [MCL 24.245(3)-(4)]. Submissions should be made by the departmental Regulatory Affairs Officer (RAO) to **orr@michigan.gov**. The ORR will review the form and send its response to the RAO (see last page). Upon review by the ORR, the agency shall make copies available to the public at the public hearing [MCL 24.245(4)].

Please place your cursor in each box, and answer the question completely.

**ORR-assigned rule set number:**

2012-118 LR

**ORR rule set title:**

State Plumbing Board Licenses Rules

**Department:**

Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

**Agency or Bureau/Division**

Bureau of Construction Codes – Plumbing Division

**Name and title of person completing this form; telephone number:**

Shannon Matsumoto, Rules Analyst, (517) 241-6312

**Reviewed by Department Regulatory Affairs Officer:**

Liz Arasim  
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

## **PART 2: APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE APA**

### **MCL 24.207a “Small business” defined.**

Sec. 7a.

“Small business” means a business concern incorporated or doing business in this state, including the affiliates of the business concern, which is independently owned and operated and which employs fewer than 250 full-time employees or which has gross annual sales of less than \$6,000,000.00.”

### **MCL 24.240 Reducing disproportionate economic impact of rule on small business; applicability of section and MCL 24.245(3).**

Sec. 40.

(1) When an agency proposes to adopt a rule that will apply to a small business and the rule will have a disproportionate impact on small businesses because of the size of those businesses, the agency shall consider exempting small businesses and, if not exempted, the agency proposing to adopt the rule shall reduce the economic impact of the rule on small businesses by doing all of the following when it is lawful and feasible in meeting the objectives of the act authorizing the promulgation of the rule:

(a) Identify and estimate the number of small businesses affected by the proposed rule and its probable effect on small businesses.

(b) Establish differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables for small businesses under the rule after projecting the required reporting, record-keeping, and other administrative costs.

(c) Consolidate, simplify, or eliminate the compliance and reporting requirements for small businesses under the rule and identify the skills necessary to comply with the reporting requirements.

(d) Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed rule.

(2) The factors described in subsection (1)(a) to (d) shall be specifically addressed in the small business impact statement required under section 45.

(3) In reducing the disproportionate economic impact on small business of a rule as provided in subsection (1), an agency shall use the following classifications of small business:

(a) 0-9 full-time employees.

(b) 10-49 full-time employees.

(c) 50-249 full-time employees.

(4) For purposes of subsection (3), an agency may include a small business with a greater number of full-time employees in a classification that applies to a business with fewer full-time employees.

(5) This section and section 45(3) do not apply to a rule that is required by federal law and that an agency promulgates without imposing standards more stringent than those required by the federal law.

**MCL 24.245 (3)** “Except for a rule promulgated under sections 33, 44, and 48, the agency shall prepare and include with the notice of transmittal a **regulatory impact statement** containing...” (information requested on the following pages).

[**Note:** Additional questions have been added to these statutorily-required questions to satisfy the **cost-benefit analysis** requirements of Executive Order 2011-5.]

**MCL 24.245b Information to be posted on office of regulatory reinvention website.**

Sec. 45b. (1) The office of regulatory reinvention shall post the following on its website within 2 business days after transmittal pursuant to section 45:

- (a) The regulatory impact statement required under section 45(3).
  - (b) Instructions on any existing administrative remedies or appeals available to the public.
  - (c) Instructions regarding the method of complying with the rules, if available.
  - (d) Any rules filed with the secretary of state and the effective date of those rules.
- (2) The office of regulatory reinvention shall facilitate linking the information posted under subsection (1) to the department or agency website.

### PART 3: DEPARTMENT/AGENCY RESPONSE

Please place your cursor in each box, and provide the required information, using complete sentences. Please do not answer the question with “N/A” or “none.”

#### Comparison of Rule(s) to Federal/State/Association Standards:

(1) Compare the proposed rule(s) to parallel federal rules or standards set by a state or national licensing agency or accreditation association, if any exist. Are these rule(s) required by state law or federal mandate? If these rule(s) exceed a federal standard, please identify the federal standard or citation, and describe why it is necessary that the proposed rule(s) exceed the federal standard or law, and specify the costs and benefits arising out of the deviation.

There are no federal rules or standards that regulate plumbing licensing. The existing plumbing licensing rules were originally developed to conform to the previous plumbing statute, 1929 PA 266. The proposed rules update the plumbing licensing rules as a result of changes in the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. These rules are required by the State Plumbing Act, Section 13 (8).

(2) Compare the proposed rule(s) to standards in similarly situated states, based on geographic location, topography, natural resources, commonalities, or economic similarities. If the rule(s) exceed standards in those states, please explain why, and specify the costs and benefits arising out of the deviation.

The proposed rules do not compare to any standards in similarly situated states. The do not compare with similarly situated states because the licenses/registrations do not compare with these states. We register apprentices and license journey plumbers, master plumbers and plumbing contractors. Ohio has a state plumbing contractor's license but cities may issue individual residential licenses. Indiana only registers apprentices and licenses journey plumbers and plumbing contractors.

(3) Identify any laws, rules, and other legal requirements that may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed rule(s). Explain how the rule has been coordinated, to the extent practicable, with other federal, state, and local laws applicable to the same activity or subject matter. This section should include a discussion of the efforts undertaken by the agency to avoid or minimize duplication.

There are no federal, state, or local laws, rules, or other legal requirements that may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed rules.

#### Purpose and Objectives of the Rule(s):

(4) Identify the behavior and frequency of behavior that the proposed rule(s) are designed to alter. Estimate the change in the frequency of the targeted behavior expected from the proposed rule(s). Describe the difference between current behavior/practice and desired behavior/practice. What is the desired outcome?

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733.

(5) Identify the harm resulting from the behavior that the proposed rule(s) are designed to alter and the likelihood that the harm will occur in the absence of the rule. What is the rationale for changing the rule(s) and not leaving them as currently written?

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. There is no harm resulting from the behavior that the proposed rules are designed to alter.

(6) Describe how the proposed rule(s) protect the health, safety, and welfare of Michigan citizens while promoting a regulatory environment in Michigan that is the least burdensome alternative for those required to comply.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. These rules establish standards for license classifications, the examination and licensing of plumbing contractors, master plumbers, and journey plumbers and for the registration of plumbers' apprentices.

(7) Describe any rules in the affected rule set that are obsolete, unnecessary, and can be rescinded.

There are no rules in the affected rule set that are obsolete, unnecessary, or can be rescinded.

**Fiscal Impact on the Agency:**

Fiscal impact is an increase or decrease in expenditures from the current level of expenditures, i.e. hiring additional staff, an increase in the cost of a contract, programming costs, changes in reimbursement rates, etc. over and above what is currently expended for that function. It would not include more intangible costs or benefits, such as opportunity costs, the value of time saved or lost, etc., unless those issues result in a measurable impact on expenditures.

(8) Please provide the fiscal impact on the agency (an estimate of the cost of rule imposition or potential savings on the agency promulgating the rule).

There is no additional fiscal impact to the agency beyond the current operational costs.

(9) Describe whether or not an agency appropriation has been made or a funding source provided for any expenditures associated with the proposed rule(s).

The proposed rules will not result in additional fiscal impact on the agency. Thus, there is no need for an additional appropriation or funding source as a result of the changes to the rules.

**Impact on Other State or Local Governmental Units:**

(10) Estimate any increase or decrease in revenues to other state or local governmental units (i.e. cities, counties, school districts) as a result of the rule. Estimate the cost increases or reductions on other state or local governmental units (i.e. cities, counties, school districts) as a result of the rule. Please include the cost of equipment, supplies, labor, and increased administrative costs, in both the initial imposition of the rule and any ongoing monitoring.

The proposed rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. There is no anticipated increase or decrease in revenues to other state or local governmental units as a result of the proposed rules.

(11) Discuss any program, service, duty or responsibility imposed upon any city, county, town, village, or school district by the rule(s). Describe any actions that governmental units must take to be in compliance with the rule(s). This section should include items such as record keeping and reporting requirements or changing operational practices.

The proposed rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. It is not anticipated that a local governmental unit would incur any added responsibility due to the proposed rules.

(12) Describe whether or not an appropriation to state or local governmental units has been made or a funding source provided for any additional expenditures associated with the proposed rule(s).

There is no appropriation to state or local governmental units required.

#### **Rural Impact:**

(13) In general, what impact will the rules have on rural areas? Describe the types of public or private interests in rural areas that will be affected by the rule(s).

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. The rules will not have an impact on rural areas.

#### **Environmental Impact:**

(14) Do the proposed rule(s) have any impact on the environment? If yes, please explain.

The proposed rules do not have any impact on the environment.

#### **Small Business Impact Statement:**

*[Please refer to the discussion of “small business” on page 2 of this form.]*

(15) Describe whether and how the agency considered exempting small businesses from the proposed rules.

Generally, the Bureau does not anticipate that small businesses will be affected by these proposed rules because the rules apply to individuals who are seeking licensure and they do not apply to businesses. Consequently, small businesses would not be exempt from these rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a.**

(16) If small businesses are not exempt, describe (a) the manner in which the agency reduced the economic impact of the proposed rule(s) on small businesses, including a detailed recitation of the efforts of the agency to comply with the mandate to reduce the disproportionate impact of the rule(s) upon small businesses as described below (in accordance with MCL 24.240(1)(A-D)), or (b) the reasons such a reduction was not lawful or feasible.

Small businesses are not anticipated to be adversely affected by the changes to **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** as these rules are for greater clarity of the Act.

(A) Identify and estimate the number of small businesses affected by the proposed rule(s) and the probable effect on small business.

Generally, the Bureau does not expect that small businesses will be affected by these proposed rules.

(B) Describe how the agency established differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables for small businesses under the rule after projecting the required reporting, record-keeping, and other administrative costs.

Because the rules apply to individuals who apply for licensure, it is not practical to establish differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables for small businesses. Small businesses are not expected to be adversely affected by these rules. There are no additional reporting, record keeping, or other administrative costs associated with the implementation of the proposed rules.

(C) Describe how the agency consolidated or simplified the compliance and reporting requirements and identify the skills necessary to comply with the reporting requirements.

The compliance and reporting requirements are unchanged.

(D) Describe how the agency established performance standards to replace design or operation standards required by the proposed rules.

There are no design or operation standards in the proposed rules.

(17) Identify any disproportionate impact the proposed rule(s) may have on small businesses because of their size or geographic location.

The proposed rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733 – have no disproportionate impact on small businesses because of their size or geographic location.

(18) Identify the nature of any report and the estimated cost of its preparation by small business required to comply with the proposed rule(s).

There are no anticipated reports or increased costs to small businesses that are required to comply with the proposed rules.

(19) Analyze the costs of compliance for all small businesses affected by the proposed rule(s), including costs of equipment, supplies, labor, and increased administrative costs.

Small businesses are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed rules, including costs of equipment, supplies, labor, and increased administrative costs.

(20) Identify the nature and estimated cost of any legal, consulting, or accounting services that small businesses would incur in complying with the proposed rule(s).

There are no legal, consulting, or accounting services costs that small businesses would incur in complying with the proposed rules.

(21) Estimate the ability of small businesses to absorb the costs without suffering economic harm and without adversely affecting competition in the marketplace.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. There are no additional costs or harm anticipated as a result of the proposed rules.

(22) Estimate the cost, if any, to the agency of administering or enforcing a rule that exempts or sets lesser standards for compliance by small businesses.

Small businesses are not exempt from these rules. The proposed rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. There is no additional cost to the agency for administering and enforcing the proposed rules beyond the current operational cost.

(23) Identify the impact on the public interest of exempting or setting lesser standards of compliance for small businesses.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. Small businesses are not exempt from these rules. Therefore, there is no impact on the public interest of exempting or setting lesser standards of compliance for small businesses.

(24) Describe whether and how the agency has involved small businesses in the development of the proposed rule(s). If small business was involved in the development of the rule(s), please identify the business(es).

The bureau involved small businesses through the rules review committee process. Small business participation on the committee included a mechanical contractor, an engineer, a plumbing inspector, and training instructors.

**Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rules (independent of statutory impact):**

(25) Estimate the actual statewide compliance costs of the rule amendments on businesses or groups. Identify the businesses or groups who will be directly affected by, bear the cost of, or directly benefit from the proposed rule(s). What additional costs will be imposed on businesses and other groups as a result of these proposed rules (i.e. new equipment, supplies, labor, accounting, or recordkeeping)? Please identify the types and number of businesses and groups. Be sure to quantify how each entity will be affected.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and will not result in any statewide compliance costs on businesses or groups.

(26) Estimate the actual statewide compliance costs of the proposed rule(s) on individuals (regulated individuals or the public). Please include the costs of education, training, application fees, examination fees, license fees, new equipment, supplies, labor, accounting, or recordkeeping). How many and what category of individuals will be affected by the rules? What qualitative and quantitative impact does the proposed change in rule(s) have on these individuals?

The proposed rules -- **R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are not anticipated to increase compliance costs for regulated individuals or the public. Rule R338.930 provides clarification and will not increase the cost of education, training, application fees, examination fees, license fees, equipment, labor, or recordkeeping nor would the proposed rules have an adverse impact on these individuals in the licensed professions.

(27) Quantify any cost reductions to businesses, individuals, groups of individuals, or governmental units as a result of the proposed rule(s).

There are no expected cost reductions to businesses, individuals, or groups of individuals as a result of the proposed rules.

(28) Estimate the primary and direct benefits and any secondary or indirect benefits of the proposed rule(s). Please provide both quantitative and qualitative information, as well as your assumptions.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733.

(29) Explain how the proposed rule(s) will impact business growth and job creation (or elimination) in Michigan.

**R 338.921, R 338.921a, R 338.922, R 338.923, R 338.924, R 338.924a, R 338.924b, R 338.925, R 338.926, R 338.927, R 338.928, R 338.929, R 338.930, R 338.931 and R 338.931a** are administrative in nature and are needed to reflect the current plumbing statute, the State Plumbing Act, 2002 PA 733. The proposed rules are not expected to have any adverse impact on business growth or job creation.

(30) Identify any individuals or businesses who will be disproportionately affected by the rules as a result of their industrial sector, segment of the public, business size, or geographic location.

Individuals or businesses will not be disproportionately affected by the rules as a result of their industrial sector, segment of the public, business size, or geographic location.

(31) Identify the sources the agency relied upon in compiling the regulatory impact statement, including the methodology utilized in determining the existence and extent of the impact of a proposed rule(s) and a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed rule(s). How were estimates made, and what were your assumptions? Include internal and external sources, published reports, information provided by associations or organizations, etc., which demonstrate a need for the proposed rule(s).

The bureau relied upon the rules review committee in compiling the regulatory impact statement, including determining the existence and extent of the impact of the proposed rules and the cost benefit analysis of these proposed rules.

**Alternatives to Regulation:**

(32) Identify any reasonable alternatives to the proposed rule(s) that would achieve the same or similar goals. In enumerating your alternatives, please include any statutory amendments that may be necessary to achieve such alternatives.

There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed rules that have been identified that would achieve the same or similar goals.

(33) Discuss the feasibility of establishing a regulatory program similar to that proposed in the rule(s) that would operate through private market-based mechanisms. Please include a discussion of private market-based systems utilized by other states.

Establishment of a regulatory program operating through private market-based mechanisms similar to the proposed rules would not be feasible.

(34) Discuss all significant alternatives the agency considered during rule development and why they were not incorporated into the rule(s). This section should include ideas considered both during internal discussions and discussions with stakeholders, affected parties, or advisory groups.

There were no significant alternatives presented for the Bureau and rules review committee to consider.

**Additional Information**

(35) As required by MCL 24.245b(1)(c), please describe any instructions regarding the method of complying with the rules, if applicable.

Not applicable.

**PART 4: REVIEW BY THE ORR**

**Date Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) received:**

4-3-2013

<b>Date RIS approved:</b>	4-18-2013
<b>ORR assigned rule set number:</b>	2012-118 LR

<b>Date of disapproval:</b>	Explain:
<b>More information</b>	Explain:

<b>needed:</b>	
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(ORR-RIS October 2012)