



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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6/10/2019 3:07:56 PM

Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Labor TITLE-SERIES: 42-34
RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No
RULE NAME: Regulation of Heating, Ventilating and Cooling Work
CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code §21-16-5 and §21-1E-4

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 07/11/2019 4:30 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Mitchell E. Woodrum, Commissioner
ADDRESS: 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Capitol Complex
Building 3, Room 200, Charleston, WV 25305
EMAIL: mitch.e.woodrum@wv.gov

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: Yes

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

The rule includes the following: a definition section; adoption of the International Mechanical Code and the International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings, as adopted by the State Fire Commission in the State Building Code Legislative Rule, 87 CSR 4; the minimum qualifications and requirements for an HVAC technician license; the minimum qualifications for an HVAC residential technician license, including the scope of work; the minimum qualifications for an HVAC technician-in-training license; supervision ratios; the terms, validity, and renewal of a license; requirements for an examination to qualify for either an HVAC technician or HVAC residential technician license, including the minimum passing score of 70%; procedures for the denial, suspension, revocation or reinstatement of a license, including investigation by the Commissioner and disciplinary action; authorization for the Commissioner to issue cease and desist orders and an appeal process; fees; and reciprocity provisions.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

HB 2004, passed by the Legislature during the 2019 Regular Session, relating to career and technical education, mandated that the Division of Labor propose legislative rules that include standards and procedures for recognizing training hours obtained through career technical education, through apprenticeship programs, and through employer-sponsored training program and for applying those hours toward licensing or certification.

These HB 2004 requirements have been incorporated into the proposed amendments to the legislative rule.

The proposed rule includes a definition of an "employer-sponsored training program." Provisions for recognizing HVAC experience and training hours have been added to both the HVAC technician and HVAC residential technician qualifications. The required amount of experience and training hours for the respective classifications are set by statute (W.Va. Code §21-16-3(a) and §21-16-5(a)(2)). An individual who does not meet the experience and training requirements an qualify for an HVAC technician-in-training license (W. Va. Code §21-16-2(d)).

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

The proposed rule should have no economic impact on the revenues of state government.

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

The proposed rule should have no economic impact on the state or its residents.

C. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2019 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2020 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-
Current Expenses	-	-	-
Repairs and Alterations	-	-	-
Assets	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-
2. Estimated Total Revenues	-	-	-

D. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

N/A.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Wesley H White -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

TITLE 42
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF LABOR

SERIES 34
REGULATION OF HEATING, VENTILATING, AND COOLING WORK

§42-34-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This rule governs the licensure, fees, examinations, and requirements for individuals performing heating, ventilation and cooling work, and sets forth the duties of the Commissioner in issuing licenses and penalties for violations, all in accordance with W. Va. Code §§21-16-1 et seq. and 21-1E-1 et seq.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§21-16-5 and 21-1E-4.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~April 22, 2015.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~July 1, 2019.~~

1.5. Sunset Date. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon the expiration of 10 years from its effective date.

§42-34-2. Application and Enforcement.

2.1. Application. This rule applies to all persons, materials and transactions governed or otherwise defined under coverage of the Regulation of Heating, Ventilating and Cooling Work Act, W. Va. Code §21-16-1 *et seq.*

2.2. Enforcement. The enforcement of this legislative rule is vested with the West Virginia Division of Labor.

§42-34-3. Definitions.

3.1. "Act" means the Regulation of Heating, Ventilating and Cooling Work Act, W. Va. Code §21-16-1 *et seq.*

3.2. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Labor, and his or her authorized representatives.

3.3. "Direct supervision" means the direction, oversight, and control of a licensed HVAC technician-in-training's work by a licensed HVAC technician or a licensed HVAC residential technician. "Direct supervision" also means the direction, oversight, and control of a licensed HVAC residential technician by a licensed HVAC technician on non-residential HVAC systems.

3.4. "Division" means the West Virginia Division of Labor.

3.5. “Employer-sponsored training program” means a planned curriculum, approved by the Commissioner, that must include training in workplace and technical competencies.

~~3.5~~ 3.6. “HVAC” means heating, ventilating and air conditioning or cooling work, but does not include refrigeration lines, steam lines or hydronics.

~~3.6~~ 3.7. “Immediate family,” as used in W. Va. Code §21-16-3(c)(1), means and includes a person’s parents, spouse, sibling, or child.

~~3.7~~ 3.8. “Lapsed license” means a license that has expired for 90 days or more.

~~3.8~~ 3.9. “Nonresidential heating, ventilating, and cooling system” means any system:

~~3.8.a~~ 3.9.a. consisting of more than 4 separate heating, ventilating, and cooling units with a combined capacity of more than 20 tons - 520,000 BTUs; or

~~3.8.b~~ 3.9.b. used in commercial structures over 5,000 square feet; or

~~3.8.c~~ 3.9.c. where fire dampers are used or required; or

~~3.8.d~~ 3.9.d. consisting of packaged rooftop units.

§42-34-4. Adoption of Standards.

The International Mechanical Code and the International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings, published by the ICC, as adopted by the State Fire Commission in the State Building Code Legislative Rule, 87 CSR 4, is adopted and incorporated by reference.

§42-34-5. License Required.

5.1. Unless otherwise exempt under the Act, beginning January 1, 2016, an individual may not perform or offer to perform HVAC work in this State without a license issued under the Act and this rule, and the applicable provisions of the Contractor Licensing Act, W. Va. Code §21-11-1 *et seq.*

5.2. A licensed HVAC technician, HVAC residential technician, or technician-in-training shall carry proof of a valid license on his or her person during the performance of HVAC work.

§42-34-6. Minimum Qualifications and Requirements for an HVAC Technician License.

6.1. A person desiring an HVAC technician license pursuant to the Act and this rule shall submit an application to the Commissioner.

~~6.2. On or before July 1, 2016, the Commissioner shall issue an HVAC technician license to an applicant without written examination if the applicant:~~

~~6.2.a. Is at least 18 years old;~~

~~6.2.b. Submits a properly completed application on forms provided by the Division;~~

~~6.2.c. Provides acceptable documentation or a sworn affidavit which demonstrates that he or she meets the minimum work and experience requirements for the HVAC technician license as set forth in W. Va. Code §21-16-5(2), which may include the successful completion of an HVAC related training program.~~

~~6.2.d. Pays the application fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.~~

~~6.3~~ 6.2. The Commissioner shall issue an HVAC technician license to an applicant who:

~~6.3.a~~ 6.2.a. Is at least 18 years old;

~~6.3.b~~ 6.2.b. Submits a properly completed application on forms provided by the Division;

~~6.3.c~~ 6.2.c. Submits a copy of the required written examination scores reflecting a score of at least 70%; and

~~6.3.d~~ 6.2.d. Provides acceptable documentation or a sworn affidavit which demonstrates that he or she has at least 2,000 hours of experience and/or training working on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems and at least 6,000 hours of experience and/or training in heating, ventilating, and cooling or related work, to include other sheet metal industry tasks. Training and experience may include, but is not limited to the successful completion of: an HVAC-related training program acquired through career technical education provided by the state's public schools or an apprenticeship program or an employer-sponsored training program.

6.2.e. Pays the application fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.

§42-34-7. Minimum Qualifications and Requirements for an HVAC Residential Technician License; HVAC Residential Technician Scope of Work.

7.1. A person desiring an HVAC residential technician license pursuant to the Act and this rule shall submit an application to the Commissioner.

7.2. On or before December 31, 2019, the Commissioner shall issue an HVAC residential technician license to an applicant without written examination if the applicant:

7.2.a. Is at least 18 years old;

7.2.b. Submits a properly completed application on forms provided by the Division;

7.2.c. Provides acceptable documentation or a sworn affidavit which demonstrates that he or she ~~meets the minimum~~ has at least 2,000 hours of HVAC-related work, training and experience requirements for the HVAC residential technician license as set forth in W. Va. Code §21-16-3(a), which may include, but is not limited to the successful completion of: an HVAC-related training program acquired through career technical education provided by the state's public schools or an apprenticeship program or an employer-sponsored training program; and

7.2.d. Pays the application fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.

7.3. On or after December 31, 2019, the ~~The~~ Commissioner shall issue an HVAC residential technician license to an applicant who:

7.3.a. Is at least 18 years old;

7.3.b. Submits a properly completed application on forms provided by the Division;

7.3.c. Submits a copy of the required written examination scores reflecting a score of at least 70%; ~~and~~

7.3.d. Provides acceptable documentation or a sworn affidavit which demonstrates that he or she has at least 2,000 hours of HVAC-related work, training and experience, which may include, but is not limited to the successful completion of: an HVAC-related training program acquired through career technical education provided by the state's public schools or an apprenticeship program or an employer-sponsored training program; and

~~7.3.d~~ 7.3.e. Pays the application fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.

7.4. A licensed HVAC residential technician may perform work on any HVAC system other than a nonresidential HVAC system as defined in this rule.

7.5. A licensed HVAC residential technician may perform work on any nonresidential HVAC system as defined in this rule, provided that he or she works under the direct supervision of a licensed HVAC technician and the required supervision ratio in section 9 of this rule is maintained.

§42-34-8. Minimum Qualifications and Requirements for an HVAC Technician-In-Training License.

8.1. A person desiring an HVAC technician-in-training license pursuant to the Act and this rule shall submit an application to the Commissioner.

8.2. The Commissioner shall issue an HVAC technician-in-training license to an applicant who:

8.2.a. Is at least 18 years old;

8.2.b. Submits a properly completed application on forms provided by the Division; and

8.2.c. Pays the application fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.

§42-34-9. Supervision Ratios.

9.1. On residential HVAC work, a licensed HVAC technician or a licensed HVAC residential technician may directly supervise no more than 4 licensed HVAC technicians-in-training.

9.2. On nonresidential HVAC work, a licensed HVAC technician may directly supervise no more than 2 licensed technicians-in-training and licensed HVAC residential technicians.

§42-34-10. Terms and Validity of a License; Renewal of a License; Duplicate; and Lapse.

10.1. A license issued pursuant to the Act and this rule is valid throughout the State, is not assignable or transferable, and is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance.

10.2. The Commissioner shall provide a licensee with a renewal application at least 45 days in advance of the license's expiration date.

10.3. Upon receipt of a properly completed renewal application and payment of the applicable fee, the Commissioner shall renew the license for a period of 12 months.

10.4. The Commissioner may issue a duplicate license to a person who, by application and affidavit, states that the original license has been permanently lost or destroyed and that the applicant is otherwise in full compliance with the requirements of the Act and this rule, and who pays the fee set forth in section 14 of this rule.

10.5. A license that has lapsed cannot be renewed.

§42-34-11. Examination Required.

11.1. Unless otherwise exempt from examination pursuant to the Act and this rule, a person desiring an HVAC technician license or an HVAC residential technician license shall pass a written examination.

11.2. The examination's minimum passing score is 70%.

11.3. The contents of the HVAC technician examination shall be based on the standards adopted in section 4 of this rule that are applicable to the scope of work and knowledge required by an HVAC technician for the installation, repair and maintenance of HVAC systems.

11.4. The contents of the HVAC residential technician examination shall be developed in consultation with HVAC industry representatives and shall be based on the standards adopted in section 4 of this rule that are applicable to the scope of work and knowledge required by an HVAC residential technician for the installation, repair, and maintenance of residential HVAC systems.

11.5. The Commissioner shall provide for the written examination of all license applicants and shall establish an examination fee schedule for the administration of the examination by the Division or by a private testing agent.

11.6. The Commissioner may:

11.6.a. Contract with a private testing agent to conduct the written examinations; or

11.6.b. Develop a written examination process within the Division.

11.7. The license applicant shall pay the examination fee directly to either the private testing agent or to the Division according to who administers the examination.

11.8. Upon request of an applicant who fails the examination, the Division or private testing agent shall provide the applicant with an analysis of his or her performance on the failed examination. An

applicant who fails the examination shall have the opportunity to be re-examined immediately upon the payment of the fees required.

§42-34-12. Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Reinstatement of a License; Investigation; and Disciplinary Action.

12.1. Pursuant to the grounds set forth in W. Va. Code §21-16-7, the Commissioner may deny, suspend, or revoke a license.

12.2. The Commissioner shall, upon receipt of a written complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, conduct an investigation to determine whether there are grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee.

12.2.a. The Commissioner may provide a form for this purpose, but a complaint may be filed in any form.

12.2.b. The Commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the licensee.

12.3. A violation of the Act or this rule is grounds for the denial, suspension, revocation or refusal to reinstate a license and permits the imposition of disciplinary action.

12.3.a. The Commissioner may not impose a disciplinary action against a licensee without a proper notice served under W. Va. Code §56-2-1, and an opportunity for hearing held before the Commissioner or his or her designee.

12.3.b. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §29A-5-1 *et seq.*, the Administrative Procedures Act.

12.3.c. At the hearing, the licensee shall have the opportunity to present evidence in person, by counsel or both.

12.3.d. After the hearing, if the Commissioner finds that a violation of the Act has occurred, he or she may impose any disciplinary action provided for in the Act or this rule.

§42-34-13. Cease and Desist Order; Penalties; and Appeals.

13.1. The Commissioner shall issue a cease and desist order to any person performing or offering to perform HVAC work without the required license issued by the Commissioner.

13.2. A person continuing to engage in HVAC work after the issuance of a cease and desist order is subject to the penalties set forth in W. Va. Code §21-16-8.

13.3. Any person adversely affected by an action of the Commissioner may appeal the action pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §29A-5-1 *et seq.*

§42-34-14. Fees.

14.1. The Commissioner shall charge a \$75.00 application fee and a renewal fee for an HVAC technician license: *Provided*, That no fee may be charged for an HVAC technician license for a person who holds an HVAC contractor's license pursuant to W. Va. Code §21-11-1 *et seq.*

14.2. The Commissioner shall charge a \$60.00 application fee and a renewal fee for an HVAC residential technician license.

14.3. The Commissioner shall charge a \$50.00 application fee and a renewal fee for an HVAC technician-in-training license.

14.4. If a renewal application is received or postmarked more than 15 days after the license's expiration date, the applicant shall pay a late fee of \$25.00 in addition to the annual renewal fee.

14.5. The Commissioner shall charge a \$10.00 fee for a duplicate license.

§42-34-15. Reciprocity.

To the extent that another state licenses HVAC technicians, HVAC residential technicians, or technicians-in-training and has requirements equivalent to the Act and this rule, the Commissioner, in his or her discretion, may grant licenses without examination to an HVAC technician, an HVAC residential technician, or a technician-in-training licensed by that state, as follows:

15.1. The applicant has provided satisfactory proof of his or her qualifications; and

15.2. The applicant has paid the fee established in section 14 of this rule.