

I have mixed feeling about the plumbing board's ability to regulate the industry through plumbing licenses. I feel that it's been effective in not allowing everyone to become a plumber and setting a standard for truly understanding the trade. However, I also feel that it's prohibited qualified plumbers from conducting business in our jurisdiction because they cannot meet certain requirements as set forth by the boards. Additionally, I have seen some of the rules contain loopholes that are only good for master plumbers to utilize to acquire work, while using plumbers who would otherwise not be allowed to work or receive a license based on the rules. Further, I do not understand why, this is the only trade the state and some municipal jurisdiction requires a board and oversight. I feel there are many more situations where unsafe building/construction or mechanical installations could be as or more unsafe than plumbing and those trades are regulated by codes and inspections. Additionally, these state laws for plumbing boards may work very well in a metro area, but in first class cities (and lower) it is extremely difficult to create and administer these plumbing boards with the limited number of resources in the jurisdiction and the limited number of truly qualified plumbers.