**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** August 21, 2025

**Time:**  10:30 a.m.

**Location:** 100 S. Charles Street, Tower 1

Conference Room 3309

Baltimore, MD 21201

Held via Video Conference

[meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo](about:blank)

By Phone via Teleconference

1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

**Members Present:** Hayward Hinkhaus, Vice Chairman, Industry Member

Leif Hancock, Industry Member

Craig Stokes, Industry Member

Robert Parker, Consumer Member

Megan Klepsig, Industry Member

**Absent:** Joseph Radtka, Chairman

Keith Horton, Industry Member

Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

**LABOR Officials & Staff Present:** John Dove, Commissioner, Occupational and Professional

Licensing

Mischelle Vanreusel, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Labor

and Industry

Charles Marquette, Executive Director, Mechanical Licensing

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

Matthew McKinney, Legislative Liaison, Occupational and

Professional Licensing

Andrew Friel, Division of Labor and Industry

LaKissha Thornton, Administrative Officer III

Regina Cherry, Administrative Specialist III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wayne Fishpaw, Pipe Trades Technologies

Kathy Stradley, MPHCC

William Sompayrac, Pipeline Training Institute

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Hinkhaus called the August 21, 2025, Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:32 a.m. Ms. Thornton announced for the Boad that the meeting would be recorded and transcribed, and that the recording and transcription were for internal records only and would not be available to the public unless required by law.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to adopt the July 17, 2025 Business Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stokes and unanimously approved by the Board without amendment.

**PLUMBING COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Vice-Chairman Hinkhaus reported the following findings of the Complaint Committee:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Closed Complaint** | **Under Investigation** | **Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge** | **Criminally Charged** |
| 24-0012 |  | 25-0002 |  |
| 25-0035 |  | 25-0026 |  |
|  |  | 25-0034 |  |

A motion to accept the findings of the Complaint Committee was made by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Parker, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

There were no applications to be reviewed and no report necessary.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

Ms. Thornton reported the following statistical summary submitted by PSI for July 2025:

**Candidates Passed Failed Pass %**

**Tested**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Journey Natural Gas Fitter | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0% |
| Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter | 53 | 23 | 30 | 43% |
| Master Natural Gas Fitter | 1 | 1 | 0 | 100% |
| Master Plumber/Gas Fitter | 38 | 14 | 24 | 37% |
| **TOTAL** | 93 | 38 | 55 | 41% |

Ms. Thornton further reported that since January 2025, 643 candidates were tested, 254 candidates passed, 389 failed, for a pass rate of 40%. Since the inception of the test, 12,581 candidates were tested, 4,582 candidates passed, 7,999 failed, for a pass rate of 36%.There are currently 13,926 active licensees.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Thornton read an email submitted by Ms. R. Fish from the MD Apprenticeship and Training Council. Ms. Fish stated that she was working with an employer to register apprenticeship programs for pool installation technicians ad pool maintenance and service technicians, and whether a plumbing or electrical license would be required for either occupation. After a brief discussion by the Board, Ms. Thornton was instructed to reply to Ms. Fish and state that, provided that there was no connection to the potable water supply or a gas system (for pool heating), that neither a Plumber/Gas Fitter nor a Gas Fitter license was needed. Ms. Thornton thanked the Board for the reply and stated she would inform Ms. Fish.

There was no other correspondence to be discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to be discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business to be discussed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Marquette introduced Mr. Andrew Friel to the Board, stating that Mr. Friel worked for the Division of Labor and Industry and was a participant in the ongoing CSST study group. He continued, stating that the study group consisted of members of Labor and Industry as well as the State Fire Marshall’s Office. A meeting of the group had been held about a week ago that was attended by Chairman Radtka and Vice-Chairman Hinkhaus. Director Marquette stated that the study was in the preliminary phase of gathering information and that more meetings would be held with the initial preliminary report being due in December. Director Marquette asked Mr. Friel if he would like to add anything regarding the study. Mr. Friel thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the meeting and address the Board. He stated that he did not have anything to add at this time. Director Marquette stated that if the Board wished to present concerns to the study group, it’s members could be invited to a future meeting of the Board to discuss their concerns and answer questions.

CSST Study

The Board discussed recent CSST study which was to be elaborated upon during Director Marquette’s report.

Reciprocal Licensing with District of Columbia

Mr. Marquette reported that he, along with Chairman Radtka, had signed the reciprocal licensing for journey and master level plumbers. The District of Columbia Board of Industrial Trades will meet on September 19, 2025 at which time they are expected to consider the agreement.

Plumbing Codes

Mr. Marquette reported that the amendments to COMAR 09.20.01 to update the Codes were published in the August 8, 2025 Maryland Register and that the public comment period will run through September 8, 2025.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Counsel followed up the Code update discussion, advising that the Board may consider the public comments, if any, and final action at its September 18, 2025 meeting.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

The Vice-Chairman did not offer a report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not convene in a Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Mischelle Vanreusel joined the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Director Marquette asked Ms. Vanreusel if she would like to address the Board before the end of the meeting. Ms. Vanreusel thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. She stated that she was appreciated the input that she had received the Chairman and Vice-Chairman thus far and that she would continue to work with the Board and the other stakeholders as the CSST study moved forward. Director Marquette thanked Ms. Vanreusel for attending the meeting, stating that he looked forward to working with her in the future.

Upon Mr. Stokes’ motion, and Mr. Parker’s second, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Charles Marquette Date**

**Executive Director**

**Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**