

Agency: Texas State Board for Plumbing Examiners

First Name: Jeremy

Last Name: Pavlich

Title: Responsible Master Plumber

Organization you are affiliated with: Plumbers Local 68

City: Beaumont

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I oppose the merging of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations.

I have worked in the field of plumbing for over 15 years, and have evolved from an Apprentice to Journeyman and on to Master through the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners. After reading the Sunset Advisory Commission report, I feel compelled to express my opposition to the merger. Having been a product of the TSBPE, I can personally vouch for the effectiveness and quality that the board produces.

Recently my home area of South East Texas was flooded during Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The call for skilled craft workers was immense. What I witnessed on a lot of the rebuilds, were unlicensed contractors convincing home owners that they could do the work. They were doing electrical and plumbing, without any training or licenses. I witnessed water heaters with the pressure relief valves plugged off, gas lines fit together with hose clamps, both are recipes for explosions. I spent a lot of time chasing down these contractors and educating the consumers, explaining the value and safety of hiring licensed individuals. If these recently rebuilt homes are to flood again due to improperly installed systems, I don't think insurance companies are going to pick up the tab. When an individual goes through the process of becoming a licensed plumber, they have a great understanding on why plumbing systems should be installed to standards.

In conclusion I would suggest that more resources should be sent to the Board so they could hire more field investigators. Texas is a massive state, and could benefit from having more people in the field ensuring plumbing systems are being properly installed to help protect the health of this state.

Jeremy Pavlich

Plumbers Local 68

My Comments Will Be Made Public: I Agree