

Sunset Commission Staff Report  
Testimony for William Venable II  
J-34401

Hello,

My name is William A. "Bill" Venable II. I am a licensed Journeyman Plumber with the Medical Gas Endorsement and I reside in the rural area of Pearland, Texas in Brazoria County. The county where Texas began. I am here today to speak in opposition to the Sunset Commission Staff Report's recommendation to merge the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations. I am representing myself and (7) family members who also reside in Brazoria county and who currently hold either a Master or Journeyman Plumbing License with endorsements. We all believe that merging these two entities would not benefit the consumers of this great state.

A few reasons being is that a consumer or customer has the right to a good quality plumbing job which is up to code and installed by licensed plumbers who have a good knowledge of the many different plumbing systems and who has had a background check in order to obtain a Texas State Journeyman License. Consumers also have the right to have a contract completed in a safe and timely manner at a reasonable price. One thing essential to life is safe and clean drinking water. Licensed plumbers ensure that water lines are clean, up to code, and that they do not have any cross connections or backflow/back siphonage issues. All this knowledge is gained from on the job training as an apprentice, the examination process for the Journeyman Exam, and continuing education all of which are daily functions of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

Contractors also rely on the TSBPE to ensure that the contracts they are awarded are installed correctly, relying not only on the licensed plumbers and registered apprentices, but the field inspectors as well to ensure that all aspects are up to codes. As a once registered apprentice and now a Journeyman Plumber, I take pride in the work that I perform as well as the many contracts I have supervised during my career thus far.

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners works diligently, day in and day out to protect the consumers as well as all licensees. They preform random inspections, act on consumer complaints, administer examinations, and ensure that all licensed plumbers or apprentices have good knowledge of all the aspects in plumbing. Everything listed previously and many more are vital to the growth of our industry and is a right of every person in this great state.

If merged into the TDLR, TSBPE would get absorbed into the large entity who already encompasses 39 agencies and over 800,000 licenses. This is not beneficial to the industry nor to the consumers. This merger would detrimental to all plumbers and apprentices who currently hold a license or registration. I feel that this would lower the requirements to obtain any license issued by the TSBPE at this time.

In closing, I hope that this testimony will help aid you in your thought process and keep the TSBPE a stand-alone entity to further maintain the health and welfare of the all the citizens of Texas.

Thank You and good day to you.