



Pennsylvania AWWA

American Water Works Association

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Patrick Stefano
Chair
Senate Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure
Senate Box 203032
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3032

The Honorable Lisa Boscola
Chair
Senate Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure
Senate Box 203018
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3018

RE: **Senate Bill 395 – Licensure of Plumbers**

Dear Chairs:

The Pennsylvania-Section, American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) consists of 2,500 + members representing all classes of water utilities in Pennsylvania, including those PUC regulated, authorities, and municipalities, plus regulators, vendors, contractors, engineers, and others dedicated to promoting the health and welfare of Pennsylvania by providing affordable drinking water of superior quality and sufficient quantity. The Water Utility Council of PA-AWWA (WUC) includes representatives from the National Association of Water Companies, Pennsylvania Chapter; Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association; Pennsylvania Rural Water Association; and Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania.

The WUC **opposes Senate Bill 395**, which was referred to the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee on March 20, 2025.

Senate Bill 395 (Farry-R) – the Plumber and Plumbing Contractors Licensure Act provides for plumber and plumbing contractors licensure; establishing the State Board of Plumbing Contractors and providing for its powers and duties; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of State (DOS).

Specifically, it provides for the powers and duties of the board to include regulating the **licensing of individuals engaged in providing plumbing services**, issuing, renewing, reinstating, declining, reviewing and suspending licenses, administering and enforcing the provisions of this act, approving professional testing organizations, investigating applications, enforcing regulations not consistent with the act but necessary to carry out the provisions, maintaining records and a registry of individuals licensed by the board, submitting an annual report to the legislature.

The WUC's concern with this legislation surrounds the definition of "plumbing services" and who may provide plumbing services.

“Plumbing services.” The installation, maintenance, extension, erection, repair or alteration of piping, plumbing fixtures, plumbing appliances and plumbing apparatus in connection with sanitary drainage, storm piping and facilities and building sewers to the facility’s or sewer’s final connection to an approved point of disposal, venting systems, public and private water supply systems of a premises or building **within the property line and to the final connection with an approved supply system.** The term also includes the installation, maintenance, extension, erection, repair or alteration of piping, plumbing fixtures and plumbing apparatus used for storm piping and facilities and building sewers, liquid waste or sewage.

Moreover, under this legislation, “an individual **may not provide plumbing services**, offer himself or herself for employment as an individual who may provide **plumbing services** or hold himself or herself out as an individual authorized to perform **plumbing services** unless licensed under this act.”

In addition, an individual, corporation, partnership, firm, or other entity shall not:

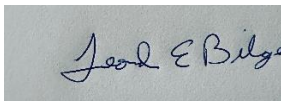
“Employ an individual **to provide plumbing services** or direct an individual to provide **plumbing services** unless the individual is licensed under this act.”

Water and wastewater systems usually do not employ any “licensed” plumbers; however, their trained utility employees or utility contractors often work on sanitary sewer and public water facilities within the ‘property line.’ It is common for a system’s curb boxes to be located within the property line, and not in a public right of way. While there may or may not be an easement for those facilities, Senate Bill 395 does not exclude facilities on property that has an easement for the water or wastewater system. Similarly, working inside the property line would suggest our utility employees or utility contractors would have to be licensed plumbers to exchange domestic water meters, commercial water meters, backflow devices, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) facilities, etc.

Finally, Pennsylvania is in the middle of implementing two federal rulemakings – the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and the expected Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), including the replacement of all lead service lines owned by the utility and the customer, which is within the customer’s property line. **Therefore, this legislation would dramatically increase the cost to water systems required to replace any lead service lines if required to use licensed plumbers.**

Therefore, the WUC **opposes** Senate Bill 395 in its current form and respectfully requests your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,




Leonard “Chip” Bilger
PA-AWWA



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PMAA

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NAWC-PA

Matthew Walborn

Matthew Walborn
WWOAP



Pat Caulfield
WUC Chairman

CC: Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure