

CHAPTER 167**(HB 427)**

AN ACT relating to the Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 198B.030 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) There is hereby created the Kentucky Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. The secretary of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet shall appoint, with the approval of the Governor, an executive director to head the office. The executive director shall receive for his or her services such compensation as the Governor shall determine.
- (2) The executive director may employ sufficient staff to carry out the functions of the executive director's office. Neither the executive director nor any member of his or her staff shall be employed, either directly or indirectly, in any aspect of the building industry as regulated by this chapter while employed by the Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction.
- (3) The office shall serve as staff for the board of housing, buildings and construction as established by this chapter, and shall perform all budgeting, procurement, and other administrative activities necessary to the functioning of this body. The board shall prescribe the duties of the executive director in addition to those duties otherwise delegated to him or her by the Governor or secretary, or prescribed for the executive director by law.
- (4) The office may enter into contracts *or agreements* with the federal government, *its subdivisions and instrumentalities*, other agencies of state government or with its subdivisions *and instrumentalities*, or with private profit or nonprofit organizations in order to effect the purposes of this chapter.
- (5) Subject to the direction of the board of housing, buildings and construction, the executive director shall cooperate with the agencies of the United States and with the governing bodies and housing authorities of counties, cities, and with not for profit organizations and area development districts in relation to matters set forth in this chapter, and in any reasonable manner that may be necessary for the state to qualify for, and to receive grants or aid from such agencies. To these ends and subject to the direction of the board, the executive director shall have the power to comply with each condition and execute such agreements as may be necessary, convenient, or desirable.
- (6) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude any other agency, board, or officer of the state from being designated as the directing or allocating agency, board, or officer for the distribution of federal grants and aid, or the performance of other duties to the extent necessary to qualify for and to receive grants and aid for programs under the administration of the office.
- (7) The executive director is authorized to receive, for and on behalf of the state, the office, and the board of housing, buildings and construction, from the United States and agencies thereof, and from any and all other sources, grants and aid and gifts made for the purpose of providing, or to assist in providing, any of the programs authorized by this chapter, including expenses of administration. All such funds shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to a trust and agency fund to be used by the office in carrying out the provisions of this chapter. No part of this fund shall revert to the general fund of the Commonwealth.
- (8) The Kentucky Board of Home Inspectors established in KRS 198B.704 shall be attached to the office for administrative purposes.

Section 2. KRS 318.054 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The initial license for a master or journeyman plumber shall expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month in the following year. The office may reduce the license fee on a pro rata basis for initial licenses issued for less than twelve (12) months. Renewed licenses shall expire on the last day of the licensee's birth month of each year after the date of issuance of the renewed license.
- (2) ***The office shall require an applicant for renewal of a license to show evidence of completing the continuing education requirements set forth by the office, with advice from the State Plumbing Code Committee, in its administrative regulations issued under KRS 318.130.***

(3) The office shall send each licensed master and journeyman plumber a notice advising them that the annual license renewal fee is due. The notice shall be sent to the licensee's last known address no later than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the license. The annual license renewal fee shall be a reasonable fee set by regulation of the office. The fee for the renewal of a master plumber's license shall exceed the fee charged for a journeyman plumber's license.

~~(4)(3)~~ Any master or journeyman plumber who fails to renew his license prior to expiration may have his license renewed upon payment of the required renewal fee, ~~and~~ a revival fee, **and upon showing the completion of continuing education requirements**. The revival fee for a master plumber shall be five dollars (\$5) and for a journeyman plumber three dollars (\$3). If the renewal and revival fees are not paid one hundred eighty (180) days after the license expires, such licenses shall be automatically canceled by operation of law for nonpayment; provided, however, that such licenses may be reinstated upon payment of all delinquent renewal fees plus a revival fee of ten dollars (\$10) for a master plumber and six dollars (\$6) for a journeyman plumber. Upon presentation of proper evidence, the office may waive payment of any renewal or revival fee specified herein for persons serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Section 3. Section 2 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2007.

Approved April 5, 2006.