



MONTANA
ADMINISTRATIVE
REGISTER



**BOARD OF PLUMBERS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2026-79.1

Summary

Amend and reduce the board's fee schedule

Hearing Date and Time

Monday, June 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Virtual Hearing Information

A public hearing will be held via remote conferencing to consider the proposed changes to the agency's rules. There will be no in-person hearing. Interested parties may access the remote conferencing platform in the following ways:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/84251550244>

Meeting ID: 842 5155 0244; Password: 1717311277

Dial by Telephone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 842 5155 0244; Password: 1717311277

Comments

Concerned persons may present their data, views, or arguments at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted at dli.mt.gov/rules or P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624. Comments must be received by Friday, June 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Monday, May 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

Department of Labor and Industry
(406) 444-5466
laborlegal@mt.gov
Montana Relay: 711

General Reasonable Necessity Statement

It is reasonably necessary to amend ARM 24.180.401 to comply with the provisions of 37-1-134, MCA, and ensure that the board's fees related to each license will provide the amount of money needed for the operation of the board's services. The board is also required to comply with 17-2-302 and 17-2-303, MCA, by not allowing the board's cash balance to exceed twice the annual appropriation amount. Therefore, the board proposes these amendments to reduce application and renewal fees.

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rule proposed to be amended is as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

24.180.401 FEE SCHEDULE

- (1) Applicants approved by the board to take the licensing examination(s) shall pay the examination fee directly to the vendor. The fee is set by the vendor and varies by examination. Information concerning current vendor examination fees is available from the board office.
- (2) The following fees apply to licensees and applicants:
 - (a) Application fees:
 - (i) Journeyman ~~\$270~~ 220
 - (ii) Master ~~380~~ 220

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| (iii) | Medical gas endorsement | 100 <u>80</u> |
| (iv) | Out-of-state | 400 <u>220</u> |
| (b) | Renewal fees: | |
| (i) | Journeyman | 160 |
| (ii) | Master | 265 <u>200</u> |
| (iii) | Medical gas endorsement | 30 <u>24</u> |
| (c) | Board-administered examination/reexamination fee | 400 |
| (d) (c) | Provisional license fee | 100 |
| (e) (d) | Master plumber of record fee | 50 |
| (f) (e) | Continuing education provider fee | 50 |
| (g) (f) | Continuing education course fee | 25 |
| (h) (g) | Retirement status certificate fee (one-time fee) | 25 |
- (3) Fees are nonrefundable.
- (4) Additional standardized fees are specified in ARM 24.101.403.

Authorizing statute(s): 37-1-134, 37-69-202, 37-69-401, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 37-1-134, 37-1-141, 37-1-304, 37-1-305, 37-69-303, 37-69-306, 37-69-308, 37-69-311, 37-69-401, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

It is reasonably necessary to amend this rule to reduce application and renewal fees for licensees and comply with 17-2-302 and 17-2-303, MCA, by not allowing the board's cash balance to exceed twice the annual appropriation amount.

Small Business Impact

The Montana small businesses that will probably be affected by the proposed reductions in fees are small businesses that employ plumbers. The proposed reduction is positive and will allow the board to gradually reduce its cash balance to meet the statutory requirements while ensuring adequate revenue to support board activities. The board estimates the fee reductions will affect about 1,785 licensees and applicants and result in a \$69,000 reduction in annual revenue.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The bill sponsor contact requirements do not apply.

Interested Persons

The agency maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by the agency. Persons wishing to have their name added to the list may sign up at dli.mt.gov/rules or by sending a letter to P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59624 and indicating the program or programs about which they wish to receive notices.

Rule Reviewer

Quinlan L. O'Connor

Approval

Sarah Swanson, Commissioner

Approval

Quinton Queer, Presiding Officer, Board of Plumbers