



**MONTANA
ADMINISTRATIVE
REGISTER**

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

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-126.1

Summary

The board is making general edits to repeal duplicative or outdated rules and is updating certain provisions to align with legislative changes enacted during the 2025 legislative session. These updates aim to improve clarity, consistency, and regulatory compliance.

Hearing Date and Time

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.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/82572459616>

Meeting ID: 825 7245 9616; Password: 7366584410

Dial by Telephone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 825 7245 9616; Password: 7366584410

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, December 5, 2025, 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 Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

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

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rules proposed to be amended are as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

24.180.407 EXAMINATIONS

- (1) All master applicants must successfully complete a written examination with a score of 70 percent or greater.
- (2) All journeyman applicants must successfully complete a two written examinations ~~and a practical examination~~ with a score of 70 percent or greater on each examination. The first written examination must be passed before an applicant may take the ~~practical~~ second written examination.
- (3) If an applicant fails three written examinations within the one year period of an application's viability, the applicant must submit proof of completion of 20 hours of continuing education as provided in ARM 24.180.2102 before the applicant will be approved to take the examination a fourth time. An applicant who fails the fourth written examination may not reapply for licensure for one year.

Authorizing statute(s): 37-1-131, 37-69-202, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 37-69-304, 37-69-305, 37-69-306, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is amended because the board no longer offers separate written and hands-on practical examinations; both the written and the practical examinations are in written format. The board is not required by statute to offer a hands-on practical examination. The hands-on practical examination required greater cost, time, and challenges with consistent administration compared with a written examination. The department's other boards, programs, and license types demonstrate that written examinations are sufficient to demonstrate competency for a given licensure. The amendment to this rule removing the hands-on practical examination will expedite licensure, reduce administrative costs, and still demonstrate competency for licensure.

24.180.2404 SCREENING PANEL

- (1) The board chair shall assign members to the screening panel ~~shall consist of at least three board members, one of whom shall be a licensed plumber member of the board, and the other two of whom shall be board members selected by the chairman. The screening panel shall be appointed by the board chairman, and the chairman shall not serve as a screening panel member during the chairman's term in office. The chairman may reappoint screening panel members, or replace screening panel members as necessary at the chairman's discretion.~~
- (2) The board chair may replace or reassign panel members, but the screening panel shall always have at least one licensed journeyman plumber or one licensed master plumber as a member.

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

Implementing statute(s): 37-1-307, MCA; [HB 414]

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is amended to allow the board chair flexibility in assigning members to the screening panel as the panel now reviews nonroutine applications following the Montana Legislature's passage of House Bill 414 in the 2025 legislative session.

REPEAL

The rules proposed to be repealed are as follows:

24.180.410 DUPLICATE AND LOST LICENSES

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

Implementing statute(s): 37-1-134, 37-1-141, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is repealed because it is duplicative of ARM 24.101.403.

24.180.501 JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Implementing statute(s): 37-69-323, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is repealed because it is duplicative of statutes including 37-69-304(2), 37-69-320, and 37-69-323, MCA; and duplicative of statutes on unprofessional conduct including 37-1-316 and 37-69-320, MCA.

24.180.502 MILITARY TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE

Authorizing statute(s): 37-1-145, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 37-1-145, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is repealed because it is duplicative of 37-1-145, MCA.

24.180.603 RECIPROCITY

Authorizing statute(s): 37-1-131, 37-69-202, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 37-1-304, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

This rule is repealed because it is duplicative of 37-1-304(3), MCA.

Small Business Impact

The board identified independent plumbers as the only class or group of small businesses that will be affected by the proposed rule changes. The board determined that the impact of these rules is unlikely to be significant as many of the changes are to clean up duplicative language. However, the board determined that any impact of these rules is likely to be positive as the updated rules clarify language and remove duplicative language. Further, the board determined that the impact of ARM 24.180.2404 is likely positive as it expedites nonroutine applications before the screening panel which may allow licensees to get back to work more quickly.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The primary bill sponsor was notified on July 7, 2025 by electronic mail.

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