



House of Representatives

File No. 622

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

(Reprint of File No. 370)

Substitute House Bill No. 5505
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedules "A" and "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 4, 2002

AN ACT ENSURING THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MEDICAL GAS AND VACUUM SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-330 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

3 As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Contractor" means any person regularly offering to the general
5 public services of such person or such person's employees in the field
6 of electrical work, plumbing and piping work, solar work, heating,
7 piping, cooling and sheet metal work, fire protection sprinkler systems
8 work, elevator installation, repair and maintenance work, irrigation
9 work, automotive glass work or flat glass work, as defined in this
10 section;

11 (2) "Electrical work" means the installation, erection, maintenance,
12 alteration or repair of any wire, cable, conduit, busway, raceway,
13 support, insulator, conductor, appliance, apparatus, fixture or

14 equipment that generates, transforms, transmits or uses electrical
15 energy for light, heat, power or other purposes, but does not include
16 low voltage wiring, not exceeding twenty-four volts, used within a
17 lawn sprinkler system;

18 (3) "Plumbing and piping work" means the installation, repair,
19 replacement, alteration or maintenance of gas, water and associated
20 fixtures, laboratory equipment, sanitary equipment, other than
21 subsurface sewage disposal systems, fire prevention apparatus, all
22 water systems for human usage, sewage treatment facilities and all
23 associated fittings within a building and includes lateral storm and
24 sanitary lines from buildings to the mains, swimming pools and
25 pumping equipment, and includes making connections to back flow
26 prevention devices, and includes low voltage wiring, not exceeding
27 twenty-four volts, used within a lawn sprinkler system, but does not
28 include (A) solar work, except for the repair of those portions of a solar
29 hot water heating system that include the basic domestic hot water
30 tank and the tie-in to the potable water system, [and] (B) the
31 installation, repair, replacement, alteration or maintenance of fire
32 prevention apparatus within a structure, except for standpipes that are
33 not connected to sprinkler systems, and (C) medical gas and vacuum
34 systems work;

35 (4) "Solar work" means the installation, repair, replacement,
36 alteration or maintenance of an active, passive or hybrid solar hot
37 water heating system;

38 (5) "Heating, piping and cooling work" means (A) the installation,
39 repair, replacement, maintenance or alteration of any apparatus for
40 piping, appliances, devices or accessories for heating systems,
41 including sheet metal work, and (B) the installation, repair,
42 replacement, maintenance or alteration of air conditioning and
43 refrigeration systems, boilers, including apparatus and piping for the
44 generation or conveyance of steam and associated pumping
45 equipment. Heating, piping and cooling work does not include solar
46 work or medical gas and vacuum systems;

47 (6) "Apprentice" means any person registered with the Labor
48 Department for the purpose of learning a skilled trade;

49 (7) "Elevator installation, repair and maintenance work" means the
50 installation, erection, maintenance and repair of all types of elevators,
51 dumb waiters, escalators, and moving walks and all mechanical
52 equipment, fittings, associated piping and wiring from a source of
53 supply brought to the equipment room by an unlimited electrical
54 contractor for all types of machines used to hoist or convey persons or
55 materials, but does not include temporary hoisting machines used for
56 hoisting materials in connection with any construction job or project;

57 (8) "Elevator maintenance" means the lubrication, inspection and
58 replacement of controls, hoistway and car parts;

59 (9) "Fire protection sprinkler systems work" means the layout, on-
60 site fabrication, installation, alteration or repair of any automatic or
61 manual sprinkler system designed for the protection of the interior or
62 exterior of a building or structure from fire, or any piping or tubing
63 and appurtenances and equipment pertaining to such system
64 including overhead and underground water mains, fire hydrants and
65 hydrant mains, standpipes and hose connections to sprinkler systems,
66 sprinkler tank heaters excluding electrical wiring, air lines and thermal
67 systems used in connection with sprinkler and alarm systems
68 connected thereto, foam extinguishing systems or special hazard
69 systems including water spray, foam, carbon dioxide or dry chemical
70 systems, halon and other liquid or gas fire suppression systems, but
71 does not include (A) any engineering design work connected with the
72 layout of fire protection sprinkler systems, or (B) any work performed
73 by employees of or contractors hired by a public water system, as
74 defined in subsection (a) of section 25-33d;

75 (10) "State Fire Marshal" means the State Fire Marshal or any
76 member of the Division of State Police to whom the Commissioner of
77 Public Safety has delegated powers under section 29-291;

78 (11) "Journeyman sprinkler fitter" means a specialized pipe fitter

79 craftsman, experienced and skilled in the installation, alteration,
80 maintenance and repair of fire protection sprinkler systems;

81 (12) "Irrigation work" means making the connections to back flow
82 prevention devices, and low voltage wiring, not exceeding twenty-four
83 volts, used within a lawn sprinkler system;

84 (13) "Sheet metal work" means the installation, erection,
85 replacement, repair or alteration of duct work systems, both ferrous
86 and nonferrous;

87 (14) "Journeyman sheet metal worker" means an experienced
88 craftsman skilled in the installation, erection, replacement, repair or
89 alteration of duct work systems, both ferrous and nonferrous;

90 (15) "Automotive glass work" means installing, maintaining or
91 repairing fixed glass in motor vehicles; [and]

92 (16) "Flat glass work" means installing, maintaining or repairing
93 glass in residential or commercial structures; and

94 (17) "Medical gas and vacuum systems work" means the work and
95 practice, materials, instrumentation and fixtures used in the
96 construction, installation, alteration, extension, removal, repair,
97 maintenance or renovation of gas and vacuum systems and equipment
98 used solely to transport gases for medical purposes and to remove
99 liquids, air-gases or solids from such systems.

100 Sec. 2. Section 20-334a of the general statutes is amended by adding
101 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

102 (NEW) (g) On or after July 1, 2003, a medical gas and vacuum
103 systems certificate for medical gas and vacuum systems work may be
104 issued by the department, upon the authorization of the Plumbing and
105 Piping Work Board or the Heating, Piping and Cooling Work Board, as
106 appropriate, to any person who (1) has been issued a P-1, P-2, S-1, S-2,
107 S-3 or S-4 license under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section,
108 (2) has been certified as a medical gas and vacuum system brazer

109 issued in accordance with the standards of Section IX entitled
110 "Welding and Brazing Qualifications" of the American Society of
111 Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, and (3) has
112 been certified as having completed an approved training course on
113 medical gas and vacuum system installation as required by American
114 National Standards Institute-American Society of Sanitary Engineering
115 Series 6000. No person shall perform medical gas and vacuum systems
116 work unless such person has obtained a certificate pursuant to this
117 subsection. Such certificate shall be renewed consistent with the
118 renewal process for the prerequisite licenses. The fee for such
119 certificate shall be twenty-five dollars.

120 Sec. 3. Section 19a-509 of the general statutes is repealed and the
121 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

122 (a) All hospitals and all nursing homes shall include on their
123 admission forms a question as to whether a person is a veteran or the
124 spouse of a veteran. All hospitals shall include on their admission
125 forms a conspicuous notice that a self-pay patient may, upon request,
126 receive a copy of the hospital charges related to such patient. Such
127 admission forms shall also include a conspicuous notice specifying the
128 name and contact information of a person whom the patient may
129 contact to request a copy of the hospital charges related to the patient.

130 (b) All hospitals shall include in their bills to patients, and to third
131 party payors unless previously furnished, an explanation of any items
132 identified by any code or by initials. Upon request by a self-pay
133 patient, a hospital shall provide such patient with an itemized bill not
134 later than thirty days after the date of such request. Such itemized bill
135 shall identify, in plain language pursuant to chapter 742, each
136 individual service, supply or medication provided to the patient by the
137 hospital and the specific charge for such service, supply or medication.

138 (c) No nursing home may bill a patient or third party payor an
139 amount for telephone service, community antenna television service or
140 other telecommunications service, which amount includes a surcharge

141 or administrative fee or which otherwise exceeds the amount paid by
142 the nursing home to provide such service.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Revenue Gain	Consumer Protection, Dept.	None	75,000
GF - Cost	UConn Health Ctr.	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Commencing on July 1, 2003, this bill requires anyone performing medical gas and vacuum systems work to obtain a medical gas and vacuum systems certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). The department may issue the certificate upon the authorization of the Plumbing and Piping Work Board or the Heating, Piping and Cooling Work Board. Since such certificates will become part of the annual licensing renewal process, any workload increase can be performed by staff within their normal duties and responsibilities.

It is anticipated that approximately 2,989 persons would be eligible to obtain a medical gas and vacuum systems certificate from the department. (This figure includes private and unionized plumbers). Since the annual fee for the certificate is \$25, the revenue gain to the General Fund would be approximately \$75,000.

The bill also requires hospitals to place on their admission forms a conspicuous notice that self-pay patients may, upon request, receive a copy of their hospital charges, and the name of the contact person who

can fulfill such request.¹ It also requires a hospital to provide the self-pay-patient an itemized bill of the charges within 30 days of the request. The itemized bill must identify, in plain language, each individual service, supply, or medication the hospital provided the patient and the specific charge for each.

While there is no additional fiscal impact associated with providing billing information upon request and notice of access to this information, there may be potential minimal costs to the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) associated with the adjustment of the current computerized billing system to provide "plain language".

House "A" changes the effective date to July 1, 2003. Thus, the revenue gain stated above would become effective in FY 04.

House "B" adds the itemized bill charges provision. It could result in the potential minimal cost to UCHC stated above.

¹ The University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) currently provides itemized billing upon the request of individuals or their insurance companies.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 5505 (as amended by House "A" and "B")*

AN ACT ENSURING THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MEDICAL GAS AND VACUUM SYSTEMS**SUMMARY:**

Beginning July 1, 2003, this bill requires anyone performing medical gas and vacuum systems work to obtain a medical gas and vacuum systems certificate from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). DCP may issue the certificate, upon the authorization of the Plumbing and Piping Work Board or Heating, Piping and Cooling Work Board, whichever is applicable. The certificate costs \$25 and must be renewed annually.

The bill requires hospitals to put on their admission forms a conspicuous notice that informs self-pay patients that they may, upon request, receive a copy of their hospital charges and specifies the name and contact information of a person who can provide it. The bill requires a hospital to provide an itemized bill to a self-pay patient within 30 days after he asks. The bill must identify, in plain language, each individual service, supply, or medication the hospital provided the patient and the specific charge for each.

*House Amendment "A" changes the effective date of the medical gas and vacuum systems provision to July 1, 2003 from July 1, 2002.

*House Amendment "B" adds the hospital billing provision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002 for the hospital charges; July 1, 2003 for the medical gas and vacuum system certification.

MEDICAL GAS AND VACUUM SYSTEMS WORK

The bill defines medical gas and vacuum systems work as "the work and practice, material; instrumentation, and fixtures used in construction, installation, alteration, extension, removal, repair,

maintenance, or renovation of gas and vacuum systems and equipment used solely to transport gases for medical purposes and to remove liquids, air-gases, or solids from such systems.”

Qualifications for Licensure

The bill requires that a certificate applicant be (1) licensed as an unlimited plumbing-piping contractor or journeyman, unlimited heating-cooling contractor or journeyman, or limited heating-cooling contractor or journeyman; (2) certified as a medical gas and vacuum system brazer in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code; and (3) certified as having completed an approved training course on medical gas and vacuum system installation as required by the American National Standards Institute-American Society of Sanitary Engineering Series 6000.

BACKGROUND

Occupational Licenses

State law establishes a licensing system for several trades overseen by different licensing boards, including the Heating, Piping and Cooling Work Board and Plumbing and Piping Work Board. The boards have the power to determine who qualifies for a license and to enforce standards by disciplining licensees. Each trade has three levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level. The boards establish less extensive requirements for workers attempting to qualify for a limited license. DCP's duties to the boards include receiving complaints, carrying out investigations, and performing administrative tasks, such as physically issuing licenses and renewals.

Legislative History

On April 17, the House referred this bill (File 370) to the General Law Committee, which reported it favorably without changes on April 24. On April 25, the House referred it to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, which reported it favorably without changes on April 26.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 22 Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 40 Nay 0