



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 160**

February Session, 2006

Substitute Senate Bill No. 565

*Senate, March 28, 2006*

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO of the 31st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PLUMBERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 20-334d of the 2006 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Accredited continuing professional education" means any  
6 education of an electrician or plumber that is designed to maintain  
7 professional competence in the pursuit, practice and standards of  
8 electrical work or plumbing and piping work and that is approved by  
9 the commissioner and is provided by an organization, institution or  
10 agency that is approved by the commissioner;

11 (2) "Certificate of continuing education" means a document issued  
12 to an electrician or plumber by an organization, institution or agency  
13 approved by the commissioner that offers accredited continuing

14 professional education, which (A) certifies that an electrician or  
15 plumber has satisfactorily completed a specified number of continuing  
16 education hours, and (B) bears the name of such organization,  
17 institution or agency, the title of the program, the dates during which  
18 the program was conducted, the number of continuing education  
19 hours satisfactorily completed and the signature of the director of such  
20 organization, institution or agency or the signature of the director's  
21 authorized agent;

22 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer  
23 Protection.

24 (b) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the  
25 Electrical Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section  
26 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1)  
27 establish requirements for accredited continuing professional  
28 education for electricians licensed pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-  
29 341, inclusive, as amended; (2) establish qualifying criteria for  
30 accredited continuing professional education programs and establish  
31 qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing education;  
32 and (3) provide for the waiver of required accredited continuing  
33 professional education for electricians for good cause.

34 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the  
35 Plumbing and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection  
36 (d) of section 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
37 chapter 54, to (1) establish requirements for accredited continuing  
38 professional education for plumbers licensed pursuant to sections 20-  
39 330 to 20-341, inclusive, as amended, which regulations shall require  
40 not more than a total of seven hours of accredited continuing  
41 professional education every two years, except in the event of  
42 significant changes to the building code, as approved by the Building  
43 Officials and Code Administrators International, Incorporated, that  
44 relate to plumbing, the commissioner, at such commissioner's  
45 discretion, may require more than a total of seven hours of accredited  
46 continuing professional education every two years; (2) establish

47 qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional education  
 48 programs and establish qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of  
 49 continuing education; and (3) provide for the waiver of required  
 50 accredited continuing professional education for plumbers for good  
 51 cause.

52 (d) Any plumber who has served an apprenticeship that included at  
 53 least seven hundred hours of related classroom instruction shall be  
 54 exempt from any continuing education requirement established  
 55 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

56 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,  
 57 any person who has been issued a P-6, P-7, W-8 or W-9 license  
 58 pursuant to section 20-334a of the 2006 supplement to the general  
 59 statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies shall not be  
 60 required to meet the continuing education requirements established  
 61 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	20-334d

**GL**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes changes to the continuing education requirements for plumbing and piping work licensees. There is no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

**OLR Bill Analysis**  
**sSB 565****AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PLUMBERS.****SUMMARY:**

This bill limits the number of hours of continuing education that Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) regulations may require of plumbers to seven every two years. If there are significant changes to the building code that relate to plumbing, the bill allows the DCP commissioner to increase the requirement. By law, the DCP commissioner may adopt regulations to establish requirements for accredited continuing professional education for plumbers and qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional education programs.

The bill exempts holders of P-6, P-7, W-8, and W-9 plumbing and piping work licenses from meeting continuing education requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Continuing Education Requirements***

DCP regulations require unlimited plumbing contractors to take six hours of continuing education every year and limited contractors and unlimited journeymen to take three hours every year. The regulations identify the following areas of study as “acceptable”: licensing or business law related to plumbing, the current State Building Code related to plumbing, and any area recommended by the Plumbing and Piping Work Board (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 20-344d-1).

***P-6 and P-7 Licenses for Sewer, Storm, and Water Pipes***

The licenses permit the installation, repair, replacement, alteration or maintenance of water, sewer, and storm lines from the utility to a point immediately inside a structure (Conn. Agencies Reg. §§ 20-332-4 (g) and (h)). Journeypersons (P-6) may only work for contractors (P-7).

**W-8 and W-9 Drain Layer Licenses**

The licenses permit the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, or maintenance of sewer and storm lines from the utility to a point immediately inside a structure. The Department of Consumer Protection no longer issues initial licenses, but renews the licenses of current holders. Journeypersons (W-8) may only work for contractors (W-9).

**Related Legislation**

SB 562 also exempts the holders of the P-6, P-7, W-8, and W-9 licenses from continuing education requirements.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15    Nay 0    (03/14/2006)