



**TESTIMONY OF
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT (CT-PHCC)
AND
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (CHCC)
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2010**

The Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of Connecticut (CT-PHCC) and the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following joint comments relative to HB-5230, An Act Concerning The Licensure Of Swimming Pool Installers:

State law establishes a licensing system for several trades overseen by the Examining Boards for the Electrical Work; Heating, Piping, and Cooling Work; Plumbing and Piping Work; Elevator Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Work; Automotive Glass Work and Flat Glass Work; and Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Boards. Each trade has different levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level.

As swimming pools and other attendant outdoor recreation structures such as outdoor kitchen areas, etc. become more complex, the need for properly trained and licensed tradespersons to perform the work is apparent. Swimming pools and outdoor kitchens had complex piping work and often are heated by gas or propane heaters, etc.

As the Department develops regulations regarding the licensure of swimming pool installers, it is imperative that the scope of such license is limited to swimming pool installation. Any such work that deals with plumbing, piping, and heating must be performed only by a properly licensed plumbing or heating contractor. When developing the regulations, CT-PHCC and CHCC recommends that language similar to

that which is already contained in C.G.S. 20-417 a.a. regarding limited licenses for swimming pool maintenance and repair work be incorporated as this helps delineate the scope of work amongst licensed tradespersons. For example, swimming pool installers should be limited to work *"where such work commences at an outlet, receptacle, connection, back-flow preventor or fuel supply pipe previously installed by a person holding the proper license"*. This type of language will help protect the consumer as well as the integrity of existing occupational license holder and ensure that only properly trained and licensed individuals are working on what are becoming increasingly more complex piping or heating elements.

Additionally, CT-PHCC and CHCC members are generally supportive of occupational licensing, as it helps protect the consumer and makes the industries more professional. However, they also feel that there must be a demonstrated need for a new limited license, that such license provides for proper technical and safety training of technicians, and most importantly, that such licenses must be clear in its scope of work to avoid any confusion for both consumers and tradespersons.

The plumbing and heating industry in Connecticut stands willing to dialogue and work with the proponents of this legislation to help protect the consumer and members of the industry alike. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.

CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.