

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21576

Prior to the adoption of statutes establishing the HVAC regulatory scheme in 2004, the plumbing industry installed fuel gas piping, steam and chilled water piping, and hot water boiler systems. Since 2004, such installations have fallen under the jurisdiction of the HVAC Board, and HVAC installers were expressly provided the authority to make such installations. Since that time, however, HVAC installers as well as plumbers and plumbing contractors have performed such installations. It has been widely accepted throughout both industry trades that historically such installations have been a component of plumbing work. That understanding served as the basis for the original exemption in this section. However, the statute does not clearly establish that a holder of a plumbing license may perform fuel piping or piping for steam and hot water boiler systems, thus clarification of the exemption is necessary. The plumbing industry would like to clarify the legal authority of plumbers to perform these types of installations within the scope of a plumbing license and to continue to provide these services. This proposal has received wide support from both the plumbing and HVAC industries as well as both the plumbing and HVAC Boards. This statutory amendment would clarify that a holder of either a plumbing or HVAC license may make such installations. The separation of 'fuel piping' and 'piping for hydronic systems' is intended to clarify that both systems may be installed with either license. Amending 'gas' to 'fuel' aligns the scope of fuel piping with that identified in the Idaho State Plumbing Code.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill has no adverse impact.

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