



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6486

**LICENSE BOILER OPERATORS**

**House Bill 5018**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mary C. Brown**

**Committee: State Affairs**

**Complete to 8-6-91**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5018 AS INTRODUCED 6-27-91**

Currently under the Boiler Act, boiler inspectors, installers, and repairers must be licensed. The bill would require the licensure, in addition, of boiler operators and stationary engineers (that is, people who operate boilers and necessary related equipment).

The bill would:

- \* prohibit unlicensed people from being employed in or engaging in the business of operating boilers;
- \* prohibit the operation of a nonresidential steam or hot water boiler without the presence of a licensed boiler operator or licensed stationary engineer;
- \* prohibit businesses from operating boilers without licensed boiler operators or licensed stationary engineers;
- \* set fees and requirements for license applicants and licensees;
- \* establish reciprocity provisions;
- \* allow certain people to be licensed until July 1, 1991 without examination; and
- \* classify boiler operator and stationary engineer licenses (and define the limits of their operating authorization) and set the requirements for each license.

Board of Boiler Rules responsibilities and powers. The board would be required to formulate definitions and rules for the safe operation of boilers in the state, in addition to its existing duties to formulate definitions and rules for the safe construction, installation, inspection, and repair of boilers. As it can now with boiler inspectors, repairers, and installers, the board would be able to suspend the licenses of boiler operators and stationary engineers for incompetence or falsifying applications or reports.

Reciprocity with other states. The bill would allow the board to issue, without examination and upon the payment of a \$30 fee, a license to applicants licensed in other states, municipalities, or countries if the licensure requirements were substantially the same as those established by the bill and if the other jurisdiction recognized Michigan licenses.

"Grandfather" provisions. Until July 1, 1991, the board would be required to recommend for licensing, without examination, applicants who had submitted evidence that satisfied the board that they met one or more of the following requirements:

- \* at least five years of experience in the appropriate class of license;
- \* a license as a boiler operator or stationary engineer from Detroit or Dearborn in the appropriate class; or
- \* successful completion of an approved four-year apprenticeship program or a four-year training program.

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Examinations. The board would administer examinations for boiler operators and stationary engineers, just as it now administers examinations for boiler inspectors. The examination for boiler operators could be either written or oral, while that for stationary engineers would have to be both written and oral.

License classifications. The bill would establish five license classifications, two for boiler operators (low pressure boiler operator and high pressure boiler operator) and three for stationary engineers (first-, second-, and third-class). Only first-class stationary engineers would not have any limitations on their licenses. The other four licenses all would be limited according to the maximum aggregate of square feet of boiler heating surface operating in a boiler plant or the maximum steam engine-turbine horsepower.

License requirements. Applicants for licenses would have to be at least 18 years old, have the physical and mental capacity to be able to perform their duties competently, and the experience and training, education, or apprenticeship experience required for the particular class of license (the bill details these requirements for each class of license).

Penalties. As is now the case for operating a boiler without a valid inspection certificate or at a pressure above that specified on the certificate, the operation of a boiler without being licensed for that type of boiler would be a misdemeanor on the part of the owner, user, or operator punishable by imprisonment of up to 60 days and a fine of up to \$500.

MCL 408.752 et al.