

Testimony – SB 2051
March 3, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Lefor and committee members. My name is Kimberley Tomanek and I am the Business Manager for the State Plumbing Board. The Board supports SB 2051 and I appreciate the opportunity to provide an explanation regarding the proposed amendments.

The Board staff is composed of six employees, the Secretary/Chief Inspector; a Business Manager; three Plumbing Inspectors; and an Administrative Assistant. The board office is in Bismarck, which is where the Secretary/Chief Inspector, Business Manager and Administrative Assistant are located. The remaining employees are in Beulah, Minot and West Fargo. Currently, the Secretary/Chief Inspector is responsible for the administration of board activities while also providing plumbing inspections throughout central and northeast North Dakota. The Board's vision is to change the composition of personnel to address the landscape of business more appropriately. A job title change from Chief Inspector to Executive Director would facilitate a more business focused position concentrating on the daily operations and management of staff. Many of the other boards and commissions are structured much like what is being proposed. Also, some of the current language pertaining to staff positions is antiquated. Basically, this part of the bill would change the job title from Chief Inspector to Executive Director, and would remove the requirement that the Secretary or Executive Director has to be a licensed plumber.

Presently the licensure fees that pertain to plumbers are application fees, license or renewal fees, examination fees and late fees. The proposed amendments relating to licensure fees would clarify and provide consistency for each fee type, while setting a maximum allowable amount for application fees and late fees. License or renewal fees and examination fees have already been established by the limits in Chapter 43-18.

The Board respectfully requests your favorable consideration of the proposed changes and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.