



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
Maryland Board of Plumbing  
1100 N. Eutaw St. 5th Fl.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

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**STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** March 21, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** 1100 N. Eutaw Street  
First Floor Conference Room  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
**(In person for Board Members and Staff)**  
Held via Video Conference  
[meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo](https://meet.google.com/qks-niad-yfo)  
By Phone via Teleconference  
1-414-909-7588 (PIN: 385820141)

**Members Present:** Joseph Radtka, Chairman  
Gregory Schott, Industry Member  
Robert Parker, Consumer Member  
Leif Hancock, Industry Member  
Hayward Hinkhaus, Industry Member

**Absent:** Keith Horton, Vice-Chairman, Industry Member  
Richard Bowers, Consumer Member

**LABOR Officials & Staff Present:** John Bull, Executive Director, Mechanical Licensing Unit  
Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
Johnston Brown, Administrative Officer III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jonathan Sargeant, Omega Plex  
Wayne Fishpaw, Pipe Trades Technology

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joseph Radtka called the Business Meeting of the Maryland State Board of Plumbing to order, virtually, at 10:36 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2024, Plumbing Board meeting without amendment, seconded by Mr. Hinkhuas, and, by a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

**PLUMBING COMPLAINT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Schott reported the findings of the Complaint Committee as follows:

<u>Closed Complaint</u>	<u>Under Investigation</u>	<u>Sent for A.G. Pre-Charge</u>	<u>Criminally Charged</u>
23-003	23-0032	23-0014	24-0006
23-0046	23-0038	23-0019	
24-003	23-0047	23-0020	
24-0013	23-0050		
24-0042	23-0051		
	24-0012		
	24-0019		

Upon a Motion by Mr. Hancock’s, and a second by Mr. Parker’s, the Board voted unanimously, by a roll call vote, to approve the Complaint Committee’s report.

**REVIEW OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS AND LICENSE TOTALS**

PSI Exams submitted the following statistical summaries for February 2024:

<b>Plumber</b>	<b>Candidates Tested</b>	<b>Passed</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Pass %</b>
Journey Natural Gas Fitter	5	3	2	60%
Journey Plumber/Gas Fitter	32	12	20	38%
Master Natural Gas Fitter	1	0	1	0%
Master Plumber/Gas Fitter	25	10	15	40%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40%</b>

Director Bull provided a written report stating that since January 2024, 119 candidates were tested, 43 candidates passed, 76 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. Since the inception of the test, 11,294 candidates were tested, 4,084 candidates passed, 7,210 failed, for a pass rate of 36%. There are currently 13,625 active licensees.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Legislation**

#### **SB 585 HB 506,**

The Board listed their objections to it, they made adjustments to the bill, but Executive Director Bull reiterated the Board's objections. As of now the Board has not heard if there will be an attempt to rewrite it.

#### **SB 1185 HB 642**

This bill regarding Apprenticeships has been withdrawn by the sponsors.

#### **HB 1241**

This bill regarding PVC/HPVC piping has been withdrawn by the sponsors.

#### **HB 269**

This bill regarding expungement is moving forward.

#### **HB 841**

No changes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Backflow Instructor Applications**

Mr. Schott motioned to have Mr. Richard Berta as an additional instructor for Pipe Trade Technology, seconded by Mr. Hinkhaus, motion unanimously carried.

### **Jimmy's Backflow Cross Connection Control Training Manual First Edition**

Mr. Parker motioned to approve the new edition of Jimmy's Backflow for use at the ABC Metro Washington school, seconded by Mr. Hancock, motion carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Bull thanked the Board for the in-person meeting last month. Management was pleased with the participation.

The Records Management position for the mechanical boards has been selected and is currently in the hands of Human Resources.

The Investigator position is vacant again and the Board is working on advertising the position.

Board Vacancies – There is currently a vacancy for the Consumer position and for a Master from Baltimore City. Craig Stokes has been recommended and has gone for a confirmation hearing on March 11, 2024, however the Board has not yet received the vote results from the committee.

Mr. Bull announced to the Board of his November 1, 2024, retirement.

**COUNSEL’S REPORT**

None.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

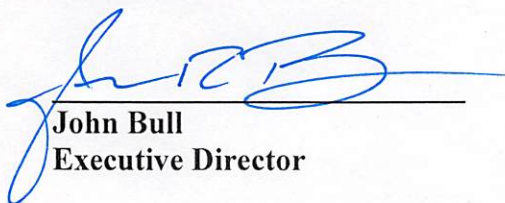
The Chairman thanked the Board members for attending the in person meeting last month and wished everyone a good Spring holiday.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board did not convene in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon Mr. Hinkhaus’ Motion, and Mr. Parker’s second, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

  
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John Bull  
Executive Director

April 18, 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Signed on behalf of the Board as voted and approved on: April 18, 2024