

October 7, 2024

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: George Latimer
Westchester County Executive



RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: Local Law –
Amendments to the Westchester County Plumbing Licensing Law.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators October 7, 2024 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a Local Law, as referenced above.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for October 7, 2024 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



George Latimer
County Executive

October 3, 2024

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

I respectfully request that your Honorable Board adopt the attached “Local Law amending Chapter 277, Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County relating to the Westchester County Plumbing Licensing Law.”

In 1993, Section 236 of the New York State County Law was enacted by the New York State Legislature, authorizing the County of Westchester to establish a Board of Plumbing Examiners that would be responsible for “the licensing, duties, and responsibilities of plumbers” within the County. Thereafter, in 1996, the Westchester County Board of Legislators enacted Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County, a County-Wide Plumbing Licensing Law, which also established the Board of Plumbing Examiners. The law provides the qualifications and procedures for obtaining a County-wide plumbing license, and grants the Board power to grant, suspend, or revoke plumbing licenses.

Since the passage and implementation of the law in 1996, it has remained relatively unchanged. The proposed amendments seek, among other things, to ensure the public health by improving the way the Board functions, providing applicants with additional ways to qualify for a plumber’s license, and ensuring that licensed plumbers are directly supervising projects for compliance with the New York State Plumbing Code.

For example, proposed Sec. 277.504 increases the number of board members by one member, and modifies the requirements for members, which would make the Board more diverse and ease the process of filling open positions; proposed Secs. 277.505 and 277.510-B provide for an Administrative Law Judge to preside over hearings (and the procedure for such hearings) to avoid the possibility of Board members having potential conflicts with parties based upon prior or existing relationships and to expedite the administrative hearing process; proposed Sec. 277.507-A allows an applicant to satisfy the proof of employment requirement with prior experience obtained through education and military service; while proposed Sec. 277.513(A) increases the penalty structure to deter unlicensed plumbing activity in the County of Westchester.

The proposed amendments reflect the experience gained during the last 26 years since the Board of Legislators enacted the Plumbing Licensing Law, as well as the evolution of the plumbing trade in Westchester County. The implementation of these amendments will modernize the Plumbing Licensing Law and better protect consumers.

Therefore, I respectfully request that your Honorable Board adopt the attached "A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 277, Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County relating to the Westchester County plumbing licensing law."

Sincerely,



GEORGE LATIMER
County Executive

GL/nn
Enclosures

TO: BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee recommends the adoption of “A LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 277, Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County relating to the Westchester County plumbing licensing law.”

You Committee is advised that, in 1993, Section 236 of the New York State County Law was enacted by the New York State Legislature, authorizing the County of Westchester to establish a Board of Plumbing Examiners that would be responsible for “the licensing, duties, and responsibilities of plumbers” within the County. Thereafter, in 1996, the Westchester County Board of Legislators enacted Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County, a County-Wide Plumbing Licensing Law, which also established the Board of Plumbing Examiners. The law provides the qualifications and procedures for obtaining a County-wide plumbing license, and grants the Board power to grant, suspend, or revoke plumbing licenses.

Your Committee is advised that since the passage and implementation of the law in 1996, it has remained relatively unchanged. The proposed amendments seek, among other things, to ensure the public health by improving the way the Board functions, providing applicants with additional ways

to qualify for a plumber's license, and ensuring that licensed plumbers are directly supervising projects for compliance with the New York State Plumbing Code.

Your Committee notes that, for example, proposed Sec. 277.504 increases the number of board members by one member, and modifies the requirements for members, which would make the Board more diverse and ease the process of filling open positions; proposed Sec. 277.505 and 277.510-B provide for an Administrative Law Judge to preside over hearings (and the procedure for such hearings) to avoid the possibility of Board members having potential conflicts with parties based upon prior or existing relationships and to expedite the administrative hearing process; proposed Sec. 277.507-A allows an applicant to satisfy the proof of employment requirement with prior experience obtained through education and military service; while proposed Sec. 277.513(A) increases the penalty structure to deter unlicensed plumbing activity in the County of Westchester.

Your Committee is further advised that the proposed amendments reflect the experience gained during the last 26 years since the Board of Legislators enacted the Plumbing Licensing Law, as well as the evolution of the plumbing trade in Westchester County. The implementation of these amendments will modernize the Plumbing Licensing Law and better protect consumers.

Your Committee is informed that the proposed Local Law does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 8, 2024, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends adoption of this Local Law.

Dated: _____, 2024
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

jsw-10/03/2024

RESOLUTION NO. ____ - 2024

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro. No. ____ - 2024, entitled "LOCAL LAW amending Chapter 277, Article XV of the Laws of Westchester County relating to the Westchester County plumbing licensing law." The public hearing will be held at __.m. on the ____ day of _____, 2024 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, New York. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Amend Plumb. Lic. Law CH 277-XV

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense N/A

Total Current Year Revenue N/A

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations

Additional Appropriations Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: REVENUE - 25-0200-0200-101-9542

EXPENSE - 25-0200-0200-101-4420

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \$5,000

Describe: Administrative Law Judge to preside over Hearings

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount \$77,500

Describe: Plumbing increase to Licensing Fees for Master Plumbers and Journeymen

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

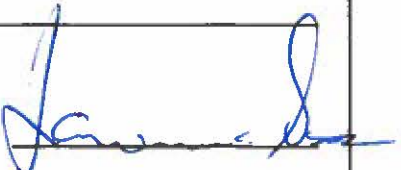
Prepared by: Vincent A. Cassels

Title: Senior Inspector

Department: Consumer Protection

Date: October 7, 2024

10/10/24
Reviewed By:


Budget Director

Date: 10/7/24