

SENATE BILL 461

C2

7lr2989
CF HB 405

By: **Senator Conway (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Plumbing and Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration**
3 **Inspectors – Qualifications**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a certain exception to the authority of a county or local
5 government to employ only certain plumbing inspectors under certain
6 circumstances; authorizing a county or local government to hire certain inspectors if
7 the inspector obtains certain certification within a certain period of time and works
8 under certain supervision under certain circumstances; providing that certain
9 inspectors may be employed only if certain experience has been obtained; and
10 generally relating to plumbing and heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and
11 refrigeration inspectors.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
14 Section 12-503(b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Business Regulation
19 Section 9A-403(a)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

25 12-503.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph (2)] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this subsection, a county or local government may employ an individual as a plumbing inspector only if the individual holds a master plumber license issued by the Board, the Baltimore County Plumbing Board, or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a county or local government that uses combination building code inspectors to conduct concurrent trade-specific inspections on residential or commercial buildings to determine compliance with adopted plumbing codes and building codes if the combination building code inspector, as part of the inspector's training, has passed:

(i) a master plumber examination given by the Board, the Baltimore County Plumbing Board, or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; or

(ii) the plumbing inspector's test administered by the Board.

(3) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY HIRE A PLUMBING INSPECTOR WHO DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR OBTAINS CERTIFICATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL AS A MECHANICAL INSPECTOR FOR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF BEING HIRED.

(II) A PLUMBING INSPECTOR HIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT WORK WITHOUT SUPERVISION UNTIL THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CERTIFICATION.

(4) A PLUMBING INSPECTOR EMPLOYED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE EMPLOYED ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS EXPERIENCE AS A PLUMBER FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.

Article – Business Regulation

9A-403.

(a) **(1) [Each] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH individual whom the State, a county, or a local government appoints or employs as a heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration inspector shall:**

[(1)] (I) each year attend a continuing education course that the Board or, with the approval of the Board, a county or local government conducts; and

[(2)] (II) meet minimum standards that are:

[(i)] 1. established by the Board; and

1 [(ii)] 2. administered:

2 [1.] A. for a county or local government inspector, by the
3 county or local government that appoints or employs the inspectors; and

4 [2.] B. for a State inspector by the State.

5 (2) EACH INSPECTOR APPOINTED OR EMPLOYED UNDER PARAGRAPH
6 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE APPOINTED OR EMPLOYED ONLY IF THE
7 INSPECTOR HAS EXPERIENCE PROVIDING HEATING, VENTILATION,
8 AIR-CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION SERVICES FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2017.