

The Joint Subcommittee undertook to address those issues by careful review of a draft revision of the existing laws in which were noted, e.g., provisions that were inconsistent either with other laws relating to plumbers or to business occupations generally, provisions that were obsolete, provisions that were impracticable to apply, and provisions that were at variance with practice in the industry. The absence of provisions that generally appear in laws governing business occupations also was noted.

It is a precept that similar provisions should be stated in the same way every time. This is particularly true as to provisions that relate to licensing. To that end, therefore, provisions of the existing law that were retained and new provisions that were added have been conformed to the language and organization of revised articles.

Thus, throughout this title, the defined term "license" is substituted for the former references to a "certificate" of competency or a "permit", to denote an authorization to provide plumbing services that an individual who is not licensed may not provide. Accordingly, the third clause of the sixteenth sentence of former Art. 56, § 449(a), which allowed the Board to call the authorization a "master plumber's certificate", and the second sentence of former Art. 56, § 453(a), which directed the Board to designate its authorizations either "certificates" or "permits", are deleted. This substitution is made to achieve uniformity in the licensing laws that are administered by boards in the Department. The term "license" does not have any legal significance in itself, and the Committee easily could have decided to use it in a different sense or to use a different term. The real significance lies in the substantive provisions in which the term appears. However, the Committee believes that, if the term consistently is used as indicated, the substantive provisions become more easily understandable.

The former law granted the Board the authority to issue limited licenses, which allow licensees to provide plumbing services or assist in providing plumbing services in specified geographical areas of the State even though the licensees do not meet the requirements of a master plumber or a journey plumber. However, the former law omitted references to the limited licenses in a number of provisions where those references were essential for a complete and coherent statement of the law.

The power to issue limited licenses, revised at § 3-310 of this title, allows the Board to issue a "limited master plumber license" or a "limited journey plumber license". The revision remedies the omissions of the former law by adding provisions regarding holders of "limited master plumber licenses" or "limited journey plumber licenses" throughout this title.