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Referred: Labor and Commerce and
Finance

5-2055A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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SENATE BILL NO. 487

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to mechanical administrators."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. AS 08.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

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ARTICLE 4. MECHANICAL ADMINISTRATORS.

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Sec. 08.40.210. PURPOSE. The purpose of AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.-

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490 is to protect the safety of people and property in the state from

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the danger of improperly installed or modified mechanical systems by

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providing a procedure to

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(1) assure the public that persons responsible for making

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mechanical installations in this state are qualified; and

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(2) assure that a sufficient number of persons are so

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qualified.

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Sec. 08.40.220. BOARD OF MECHANICAL EXAMINERS. (a) There is

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created the Board of Mechanical Examiners consisting of three members.

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Two members of the board shall be licensed mechanical administrators

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and one member shall be a public member.

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(b) The members of the board shall elect one of its members as

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chair.

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(c) The board shall meet at least annually. The board may hold

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other meetings at the call of the chair.

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Sec. 08.40.230. CATEGORIES OF LICENSES. The board may adopt

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regulations establishing categories of mechanical administrators,

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qualifications for those categories, and the content of examinations

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for applicants for each category.

1 Sec. 08.40.240. REGULATIONS. The board shall adopt regulations
2 under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), relating to the ex-
3 amination and licensing of mechanical administrators, the establishing
4 of the continued competency of licensees for license renewal and
5 reinstatement, and the suspension or revocation of licenses.

6 Sec. 08.40.250. EXAMINATIONS. The board shall conduct licensing
7 examinations at least twice each year at appropriate places in the
8 state.

9 Sec. 08.40.260. INSPECTION OR INVESTIGATION BY BOARD. The board
10 may

11 (1) make or have made a special inspection or investigation
12 into the work of a licensee that it considers necessary;

13 (2) issue subpoenas and process compelling the attendance
14 of a person and the production of papers or books, for the purpose of
15 the investigation and examination;

16 (3) administer oaths when required; and

17 (4) petition a court of the state to enforce subpoenas and
18 process or to compel testimony.

19 Sec. 08.40.270. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) A person may not act as
20 a mechanical administrator without a license.

21 (b) A person licensed under AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490 may perform
22 work only in a category for which the person is licensed.

23 Sec. 08.40.280. EXAMINATION OF APPLICANT. (a) Each applicant
24 shall be examined to determine the applicant's

25 (1) ability to understand plans, design specifications, and
26 engineering terms commonly used in the mechanical field;

27 (2) knowledge of mechanical installations and piping;

28 (3) familiarity with the requirements of the Uniform Plumb-
29 ing Code, Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, Uniform Solar

1 Energy Code, and the Uniform Mechanical Code currently in effect in
2 the state;

3 (4) familiarity with mechanical installation problems and
4 the usages of the trade peculiar to this state; and

5 (5) personal skill and ability.

6 (b) If an applicant for a license submits proof satisfactory to
7 the board that the applicant is licensed as a mechanical administrator
8 or the equivalent by another state or territory, meets qualifications
9 established by the board under AS 08.40.230, and has passed an ex-
10 amination equivalent to the test administered under (a) of this sec-
11 tion except insofar as that examination tests knowledge and skill
12 particularly required to meet the environment and usages of the trade
13 peculiar to this state, the board shall waive all of the examination
14 required under (a) of this section except those parts that test knowl-
15 edge and skill particularly required to meet the environment and
16 usages of the trade peculiar to this state.

17 Sec. 08.40.290. ADMINISTRATOR LIMITED TO ONE LICENSED CONTRAC-
18 TOR. A person may not qualify or operate as a mechanical adminis-
19 trator for more than one registered contractor, corporation, joint
20 venture, or other business entity.

21 Sec. 08.40.300. RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT. (a) A license
22 issued under AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490 is nontransferable and, unless
23 revoked or suspended, may be renewed upon proof of continued com-
24 petency.

25 (b) A lapsed license may be reinstated upon proof of continued
26 competency by payment of all unpaid renewal fees and any penalty fee
27 established under AS 08.01.100(b), unless the license has been lapsed
28 for more than two years. If a person's license has been lapsed for
29 more than two years, the person is required to take an examination

1 under AS 08.40.280.

2 Sec. 08.40.310. ISSUANCE AND DISPLAY OF LICENSE. An applicant
3 who successfully passes the examination shall receive a certificate of
4 license. The licensee shall prominently display the certificate,
5 while in effect, in the licensee's principal place of business.

6 Sec. 08.40.320. FEES. Each applicant and each licensee shall
7 pay application and renewal fees established under AS 08.01.065.

8 Sec. 08.40.330. DENIAL, SUSPENSION, AND REVOCATION OF LICENSE.

9 (a) The board may take disciplinary action against a licensee or
10 applicant upon a finding that

11 (1) the application is fraudulent or misleading;

12 (2) the licensee has knowingly violated AS 08.40.210 -
13 08.40.490 or a lawful rule, order, or regulation of the board or the
14 department; or

15 (3) the licensee is incompetent or has engaged in fraudu-
16 lent practices.

17 (b) Notice of a proposed denial, suspension, or revocation of
18 license shall be in writing and shall state the grounds.

19 (c) Proceedings for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a
20 license shall be governed by AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act).

21 Sec. 08.40.340. INVESTIGATIONS. Either the Department of Com-
22 merce and Economic Development or the Department of Labor may investi-
23 gate alleged or apparent violations of AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490. A
24 department, upon showing proper credentials, may enter, during regular
25 hours of work, a construction site where it appears that mechanical
26 work is being done. A department may make inquiries about the identi-
27 ty of the mechanical administrator or the person acting in the capaci-
28 ty of a mechanical administrator. Upon demand, a mechanical adminis-
29 trator or person acting in the capacity of a mechanical administrator,

1 or that person's representative, shall produce evidence of current
2 licensure.

3 Sec. 08.40.350. ISSUANCE OF CITATIONS. Either the Department of
4 Commerce and Economic Development or the Department of Labor may issue
5 a citation for a violation if there is probable cause to believe a
6 person has violated AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490. Each day a violation
7 continues after a citation for the violation has been issued consti-
8 tutes a separate violation.

9 Sec. 08.40.360. PROCEDURE AND FORM OF CITATION. (a) A citation
10 issued under AS 08.40.350 must be in writing. A person receiving the
11 citation is not required to sign a notice to appear in court.

12 (b) The time specified in the notice to appear on a citation
13 issued under AS 08.40.350 must be at least five days, not including
14 weekends and holidays, after the issuance of the citation, unless the
15 person cited requests an earlier hearing.

16 (c) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the
17 Department of Labor are responsible for the issuance of books contain-
18 ing appropriate citations, and each shall maintain a record of each
19 book issued and each citation contained in it. Each department shall
20 require and retain a receipt for every book issued to an employee of
21 that department.

22 (d) The department that issues a citation under AS 08.40.350
23 shall deposit the original or a copy of the citation with a court
24 having jurisdiction over the alleged offense. Upon its deposit with
25 the court, the citation may be disposed of only by trial in the court
26 or other official action taken by the magistrate, judge, or prosecu-
27 tor. The department that issued the citation may not dispose of it or
28 copies of it or of the record of its issuance except as required under
29 this subsection and (e) of this section.

1 (e) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the
2 Department of Labor shall require the return of a copy of every cita-
3 tion issued by the respective department under AS 08.40.350 and of all
4 copies of every citation that has been spoiled or upon which an entry
5 has been made and not issued to an alleged violator. The departments
6 shall also maintain, in connection with every citation issued by the
7 respective department, a record of the disposition of the charge by
8 the court where the original or copy of the citation was deposited.

9 (f) If the form of citation issued under AS 08.40.350 includes
10 the essential facts constituting the offense charged, and if the
11 citation is sworn to as required under the laws of this state for a
12 complaint charging commission of the offense alleged in the citation,
13 then the citation when filed with a court having jurisdiction is
14 considered to be a lawful complaint for the purpose of prosecution.

15 Sec. 08.40.370. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER. (a) If the commis-
16 sioner of commerce and economic development determines that a person
17 is acting as a mechanical administrator in violation of AS 08.40.210 -
18 08.40.490 the commissioner may issue a cease and desist order pro-
19 hibiting further action by the person as a mechanical administrator.
20 The cease and desist order remains in effect until the person has
21 submitted evidence acceptable to the commissioner showing that the
22 violation has been corrected.

23 (b) A person affected by an order issued under (a) of this
24 section may seek equitable relief preventing the commissioner of
25 commerce and economic development from enforcing the order.

26 Sec. 08.40.380. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. The commissioner of commerce
27 and economic development may seek an injunction in the superior court
28 to enjoin a person from violating AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490.

29 Sec. 08.40.390. PENALTIES. (a) A person who knowingly violates

1 AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490, or who knowingly violates a valid rule,
2 regulation, or order of the board or the department, is guilty of a
3 misdemeanor, and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more
4 than \$300, or by imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or by both.

5 (b) Unless the citation has been voided or otherwise dismissed
6 by the magistrate, judge, or prosecutor, a person who without lawful
7 justification or excuse fails to appear in court to answer a citation
8 issued under AS 08.40.350, regardless of the disposition of the charge
9 for which the citation was issued, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

10 Sec. 08.40.400. EXCLUSIONS. (a) Except for inspections au-
11 thorized under AS 08.40.260, 08.40.210 - 08.40.490 do not apply to a
12 utility or municipality engaged in

13 (1) mechanical construction and maintenance of mechanical
14 systems and equipment for the generation and distribution of elec-
15 trical current or generation and distribution of district heating when
16 the mechanical work is performed on an integral part of a system owned
17 and operated by that utility or municipal light and power department
18 and when the work is performed by employees of the utility or munici-
19 pality;

20 (2) mechanical construction and maintenance of mechanical
21 systems and equipment for the distribution of fuel gas when the me-
22 chanical work is performed on an integral part of the distribution
23 system owned and operated by the utility or municipality and when the
24 work is performed by employees of the utility or municipality.

25 (b) Except for inspections authorized under AS 08.40.260, 08.-
26 40.210 - 08.40.490 do not apply to a person engaged in

27 (1) the manufacture or repair of mechanical apparatus or
28 equipment;

29 (2) mechanical work, the cost of which does not exceed

1 \$5,000, involving residences or small commercial establishments in
2 communities that

3 (A) have a population of under 500; or

4 (B) are over 50 miles by air or water transportation
5 from the business place of a mechanical administrator licensed
6 under AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490;

7 (3) mechanical installation on a single family residence
8 that is owned by the installer or a member of the installer's immedi-
9 ate family and not intended for sale at the time of making the instal-
10 lation;

11 (4) installation outside of a building of water lines or
12 sanitary, storm, or drain sewer lines.

13 Sec. 08.40.410. PERSONAL SUPERVISION. A person licensed under
14 AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490 as a mechanical administrator who contracts
15 to install or modify mechanical piping and systems, devices, fixtures,
16 equipment, or other mechanical materials, shall personally inspect
17 those materials after installation and modification unless the instal-
18 lation or modification amounts to simple or highly standardized work
19 performed in less than 24 man-hours by personnel generally under the
20 supervision of the mechanical administrator.

21 Sec. 08.40.490. DEFINITIONS. In AS 08.40.210 - 08.40.490

22 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and
23 Economic Development except where the context otherwise requires;

24 (2) "manufacture" means fabrication or completion of a
25 product or mechanical apparatus exclusive of its completion or instal-
26 lation at a job site;

27 (3) "mechanical administrator" means a person engaged in
28 the business of, or purporting to be engaged in the business of,
29 installing or modifying, or contracting to install or modify,

1 mechanical piping and systems, devices, fixtures, equipment, or other
2 mechanical materials subject to the Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform
3 Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, Uniform Solar Energy Code, and
4 the Uniform Mechanical Code as published by the International Associa-
5 tion of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and the International Con-
6 ference of Building Officials;

7 (4) "mechanical piping" includes piping fixtures, devices,
8 and equipment;

9 (5) "utility" means every public, cooperative, or other
10 corporation, company, individual, or association of individuals, their
11 lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by a court, that owns,
12 operates, manages, or controls a plant or system for

13 (A) furnishing, by generation, transmission, or dis-
14 tribution, electrical service, fuel gas service, district heat-
15 ing, sewage disposal, or domestic water service to the public for
16 compensation;

17 (B) furnishing telecommunications service to the
18 public for compensation.

19 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (28) Board of Mechanical Examiners (AS 08.40.220).

21 * Sec. 3. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

22 (21) Board of Mechanical Examiners (AS 08.40.220) --
23 June 30, 1992.

24 * Sec. 4. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD. A person is eligible for
25 an initial appointment to the Board of Mechanical Examiners, created under
26 sec. 1 of this Act, as a professional member of the board, if at the time
27 of the appointment the person

28 (1) understands plans, design specifications, and engineering
29 terms commonly used in mechanical installations and piping;

1 (2) is familiar with mechanical installations and piping and
2 with mechanical installation problems peculiar to this state; and
3 (3) is familiar with the requirements of the Uniform Plumbing
4 Code, Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, Uniform Solar Energy
5 Code, and Uniform Mechanical Code that are currently in effect in the
6 state.