

## CHAPTER 354

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**PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**

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**HOUSE BILL 10-1241**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Casso, Fischer, Frangas, Hullinghorst, Kagan, Labuda, Pace, Soper, Vigil, Carroll T.;  
also SENATOR(S) Tochtrop.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING REQUIRED REGISTRATION FOR PERSONS WHO WORK ON FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS,  
AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly finds and determines that in the interest of promoting public safety, persons performing work on fire suppression systems should meet at least minimum skill training standards that demonstrate competency in the sprinkler fitter trade. Therefore the general assembly declares that the purpose of this act is to expand the regulation of persons who work on fire suppression systems to include all persons who work as sprinkler fitters.

**SECTION 2.** 12-58-104 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

**12-58-104. Powers of board - fees - rules.** (1) In addition to all other powers and duties conferred or imposed upon the board by this article, the board is authorized and empowered to:

(k) ESTABLISH MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR THE INSPECTION OF MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES THAT ARE PART OF THE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY, BY REQUIRING INSPECTORS OF MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES TO BE CERTIFIED BY THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBIC SAFETY PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-1206.4, C.R.S.

**SECTION 3.** 24-33.5-1202 (6), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

said 24-33.5-1202 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS, to read:

**24-33.5-1202. Definitions.** As used in this part 12, unless the context otherwise requires:

(3.4) "CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL DEVICE" MEANS AN INSTALLATION, DEVICE, OR ASSEMBLY LOCATED BETWEEN THE WATER SUPPLY AND FIRE SUPPRESSION PIPING TO PREVENT THE UNDESIRABLE REVERSAL IN THE FLOW OF WATER FROM A REAL OR POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION BACK TO THE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY. A CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL DEVICE IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS A BACK FLOW PREVENTER.

(6) "Fire suppression system" means an assembly of any or all of the following: Piping valves, conduits, dispersal openings, sprinkler heads, orifices, and other similar devices that convey extinguishing agents for the purpose of controlling, confining, or extinguishing fire, with the exception of MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES THAT ARE PART OF THE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY, pre-engineered range hoods, duct systems, and portable fire extinguishers.

(13.3) "SPRINKLER FITTER" MEANS A PERSON OTHER THAN AN APPRENTICE WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR AND WHO INSTALLS FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS. "SPRINKLER FITTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERSON WHO PERFORMS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR ON FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS AS A PART OF HIS OR HER EMPLOYMENT. A SPRINKLER FITTER DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERSON WHO PERFORMS WORK EXCLUSIVELY ON CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL DEVICES OR A PERSON WHO PERFORMS WORK EXCLUSIVELY ON AN UNDERGROUND SYSTEM. "SPRINKLER FITTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERSON PERFORMING WORK ON HIS OR HER OWN HOME.

(13.7) "SPRINKLER FITTER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM" MEANS AN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM THAT IS REGISTERED WITH EITHER THE OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING, EMPLOYER AND LABOR SERVICES IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OR A STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF 29 CFR 29.1 ET SEQ., OR OTHER SIMILAR APPRENTICE PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, AND CONSISTS OF A MINIMUM OF EIGHT THOUSAND HOURS OF DOCUMENTED PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE ON FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS, COMBINED WITH A MINIMUM OF SEVEN HUNDRED HOURS OF RELATED INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING CLASSROOM OR SHOP INSTRUCTION, IN THE SPRINKLER FITTER TRADE.

(13.9) "UNDERGROUND SYSTEM" MEANS THE SYSTEM OF BELOW GROUND PIPING, VALVES, APPLIANCES, AND APPURTENANCES THAT PHYSICALLY CONNECT THE WATER SUPPLY TO A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM.

**SECTION 4.** Part 12 of article 33.5 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**24-33.5-1206.7. Sprinkler fitters - registration required - rules.** (1) NO PERSON SHALL ACT, ASSUME TO ACT, OR ADVERTISE AS A SPRINKLER FITTER WHO IS

NOT REGISTERED WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(2) A REGISTERED SPRINKLER FITTER SHALL OBTAIN ANY LOCALLY REQUIRED LICENSES OR PERMITS AND COMPLY WITH LOCAL BUILDING CODES.

(3) IN ORDER TO REGISTER WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR, A SPRINKLER FITTER SHALL PAY A FEE AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND SHALL:

(a) PROVIDE EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATING THAT HE OR SHE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A SPRINKLER FITTER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND TAKE AND PASS AN EXAMINATION ESTABLISHED AND APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR;

(b) COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BY RECIPROCITY ESTABLISHED BY RULES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT DEMONSTRATES COMPETENT EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT IS CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE AS A SPRINKLER FITTER IN ANOTHER STATE THAT HAS ESTABLISHED QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO, OR GREATER THAN, THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THIS SECTION OR BY RULE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR;

(c) PROVIDE EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATING THAT HE OR SHE PERFORMED AT LEAST EIGHT THOUSAND HOURS OF DOCUMENTED PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE ON FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS; OR

(d) OTHERWISE DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY AS A SPRINKLER FITTER AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(4) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON WHO IS ENROLLED IN A SPRINKLER FITTER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM MAY PERFORM WORK ON A FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AND IN THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF A SPRINKLER FITTER.

(5) (a) A REGISTERED SPRINKLER FITTER SHALL COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY RULE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(b) A SPRINKLER FITTER SHALL APPLY TO RENEW HIS OR HER REGISTRATION ANNUALLY. THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL RENEW, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, A SPRINKLER FITTER REGISTRATION UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPLETED RENEWAL APPLICATION AND A RENEWAL FEE AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. IN YEARS THAT THE FIRE AND SAFETY CODE IS REVISED, A SPRINKLER FITTER SHALL ALSO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A REVISED EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO RENEW HIS OR HER REGISTRATION.

(6) THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

**SECTION 5.** The introductory portion to 12-58-102 (5) (a) and 12-58-102 (5) (a) (I), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

**12-58-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(5) (a) "Plumbing" includes the following items located within the building or extending five feet from the building foundation, excluding any service line extending from the first joint to the property line: All potable water supply and distribution pipes and piping; all plumbing fixtures and traps; all drainage and vent pipes; all building drains, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptacles, and appurtenances; ALL MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES THAT ARE PART OF THE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY; and all medical gas and vacuum systems in health care facilities. "Plumbing" does not include:

(I) The installation, extension, alteration, or maintenance, including the related water piping and the indirect waste piping therefrom, of domestic appliances equipped with backflow preventers, including lawn sprinkling systems, residential ice makers, humidifiers, electrostatic filter washers, water heating appliances, water conditioning appliances not directly connected to the sanitary sewer system, building heating appliances and systems, fire protection systems EXCEPT FOR MULTIPURPOSE RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TOWNHOUSES THAT ARE PART OF THE POTABLE WATER SUPPLY, air conditioning installations, process and industrial equipment and piping systems, or indirect drainage systems not a part of a sanitary sewer system; or

**SECTION 6. Appropriation.** In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the fire suppression cash fund created in section 24-33.5-1207.6, Colorado Revised Statutes, not otherwise appropriated, to the department of public safety, office of preparedness, security, and fire safety, for personal services, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

**SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - specified effective date - applicability.**

(1) This act shall take effect July 1, 2011; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2010 and shall take effect on July 1, 2011, or on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.

(2) The provisions of this act shall apply to persons who work on fire suppression systems on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

Approved: June 7, 2010