

## Occupational Authorizations

for the meeting of the  
ALC-OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE  
Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 2:00 PM

### Department of Health

#### APPRENTICE PLUMBER

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Apprentice Plumber means any person other than a journeyman or master plumber who is engaged in learning and assisting in the installation, repair or renovation of plumbing under the direct supervision of a master or journeyman plumber and enrolled in a state-approved apprentice program. Ark. Code §17-38-101(1) §17-38-301(b)(1) §17-38-401(1)§17-38-409(b)(1).

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

#### Fees & Penalties

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual License Fee - Apprentice Plumbers	\$25.00	Annually

#### Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PLUMBERS_LICENSE_RULE.pdf</a>

#### Supporting Evidence Documents

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational Entity Questionnaire - Plumbing.pdf</a>

#### BACKFLOW PREVENTER TESTING TECHNICIAN

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Backflow Preventer Testing Technician - An individual holding a current certificate of competency from the Plumbing and Natural Gas Section of the Department of Health that tests backflow prevention assemblies within the scope of plumbing systems. Ark. Code §17-38-302(4)

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from

**Department of Health (Continued)**

**BACKFLOW PREVENTER TESTING TECHNICIAN (Continued)**

accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

*No Fees or Penalties Provided*

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PLUMBERS_LICENSE_RULE.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational Entity Questionnaire - Plumbing.pdf</a>

**BACKFLOW PREVENTION REPAIRMAN**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Backflow Prevention Repairman - An individual holding a certificate of competency from the Plumbing and Natural Gas Section of the Department of Health that test backflow prevention assemblies within the scope of plumbing systems. §17-38-302(4)

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

*No Fees or Penalties Provided*

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PLUMBERS_LICENSE_RULE.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational Entity Questionnaire - Plumbing.pdf</a>

**GAS FITTER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Gas Fitter is a person that has demonstrated competency in natural gas installation, repair and renovation of a natural gas piping and venting within or adjacent to any building structure or

**Department of Health (Continued)**

**GAS FITTER (Continued)**

Renovation of a natural gas piping and venting within or adjacent to any building, structure, or conveyance on the premises and from the natural gas utility meter.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Gas Fitter	\$75.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$75.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PlumbinggasInspectorrulesRegulations.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

**GOVERNMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLUMBER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Governmental Maintenance Plumber is an employee of a governmental entity, that has demonstrated competency in general plumbing maintenance and may engage in the repair and maintenance of plumbing at properties maintained by the governmental entity of which they are employed.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Governmental Maintenance Plumber	\$100.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$125.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PlumbingGovernmentalMaintenanceRegulations.pdf</a>

**Department of Health (Continued)**

**GOVERNMENTAL MAINTENANCE PLUMBER (Continued)**

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

**HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE PLUMBER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Hospital Maintenance Plumber is an employee of a hospital, that has demonstrated competency in general plumbing maintenance and may engage in the repair and maintenance of plumbing at properties maintained by the hospital of which they are employed.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Hospital Maintenance Plumber	\$75.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$75.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PlumbingRulesandRegsforHospMaint.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

**JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Journeyman Plumber means any person other than a master plumber who is engaged in the practical installation of plumbing under the direct or indirect supervision of a Master Plumber. Ark. Code §17-38-101(7) §17-38-301(b)(1)

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from

**Department of Health (Continued)****JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER (Continued)**

accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Journeyman Plumber	\$75.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$75.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PLUMBERS_LICENSE_RULE.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational Entity Questionnaire - Plumbing.pdf</a>

**MASTER PLUMBER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Master Plumber means any person skilled in the planning, superintending, and practical installation repair, maintenance, and renovation of plumbing and familiar with the laws and rules governing it. Arkansas Code §17-38-101(8) §17-38-301(b)(1)

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Master Plumber	\$200.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$125.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PLUMBERS_LICENSE_RULE.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational Entity Questionnaire - Plumbing.pdf</a>

**PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

**Department of Health (Continued)**

**PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR (Continued)**

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Plumbing and Gas Inspector is a person duly appointed as a plumbing and/or inspector by the state or by any county, city, town, water district, water association, sewer district, sewer association, or any water, or gas utility having authority over a system of either a water, sewer, or natural gas utility or a combination of utilities, and certified as competent by the Department of Health, to inspect plumbing and natural gas installations, repairs and renovations adhering to the minimum standards set by the Arkansas Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member’s spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee- Plumbing and Gas Inspector	\$25.00	Annually

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PlumbinggasInspectorrulesRegulations.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

**RESTRICTED WATER AND SERVICE LINE INSTALLER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Water and Sewer Service Line Installer is a person that has demonstrated competency in the installation repair and renovation of a water service line to the exterior stub out of the water distribution system of a building or structure, from the utility water meter or other water sources; and in the installation repair and renovation of a sewer service line from the exterior stub out of a building or structure drain system, to a utility or private waste disposal system.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member’s spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
F	A	\$200.00	A

**Department of Health (Continued)****RESTRICTED WATER AND SERVICE LINE INSTALLER (Continued)**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee - Restricted Water and Sewer Service Line Installer	\$200.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$125.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">PlumbingWaterSewerInstallersRulesRegulations.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

**SOLAR MECHANIC PLUMBER**

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Protective Health Codes

Scope of Practice: Solar Mechanic An individual that has demonstrated competency in the installation, repair and renovation of hydronic solar piping systems.

Statutory Requirement(s): Arkansas Code §17-38-201 requires the State Board of Health to prescribe rules as to the qualifications, examinations, and licensing of master plumbers and journeyman plumbers, and for the registration of apprentice plumbers, and require survey and inspection, conduct investigations relative to the requirements of the chapter.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

**Fees & Penalties**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Annual Fee- Solar Mechanic Plumber	\$75.00	Annually
Fee	Application Fee	\$75.00	Once

**Administrative Rules Documents**

Document Type	Document
Rules	<a href="#">restrict_plumber_solar.pdf</a>

**Supporting Evidence Documents**

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	<a href="#">Occupational_Entity_Questionnaire_-_Plumbing.pdf</a>

## ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

1. *Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?*

The Plumbing and Natural Gas Section of the Arkansas Department of Health (“ADH”) is completely funded by plumbing license fees. With those fees ADH – administers the plumbing codes, gas codes and plumbing laws. ADH ensures that the entities that are required by law to perform inspections have trained people to do so. ADH trains approximately nine hundred (900) local municipal inspectors annually. ADH assists them with inspections, investigations, and complaints and health/safety concerns from property owners and other members of the public. With only eight (8) field inspectors, ADH covers seventy-five (75) counties. If a utility or municipality is without an inspector, ADH covers them until one can be acquired. ADH performs inspections on all state-owned properties and facilities such as colleges, parks, offices and detention facilities, including the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services facilities which receive two (2) annual inspections. The Committee of Plumbing Examiners is also funded by these same fees. The Committee is the entity which initially approves license applications, considers waivers of disqualifying offenses as required by Act 990 of 2019, hears civil penalty cases based on code violations and complaints, reviews and considers variance request and oversees the drafting of code and rule changes prior to submittal for approval. Loss of plumbing licensing fees would require offset funding from the state general revenue to continue the program.

Consumers would be at substantial harm if the state did not have plumbing and gas codes and enforcement for several reasons:

1. **Health and Safety:** Plumbing codes ensure that plumbing systems are installed correctly to prevent issues such as contaminated water supply, sewage leaks, and potential health hazards. Without these codes, there could be a higher risk of waterborne diseases. Contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Absent, inadequate, or inappropriately managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks, and other health concerns, such as lead poisoning, respiratory issues, and even slips and falls.
2. **Structural Integrity:** Proper plumbing installation is essential for the structural integrity of buildings. Without codes to regulate the installation of plumbing systems, there could be an increased risk of leaks, water damage, and even structural failures due to poor plumbing practices.



## ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Examples include but not limited to:

The plumbing contractor follows code requirements for pipe supports and hangers, ensuring all pipes are adequately supported to prevent sagging or movement that could damage walls and ceilings.

If the building is located in an area with high municipal water pressure, to comply with the code, a pressure-reducing valve is installed at the main water supply line to prevent pipes from bursting under excessive pressure.

Vent pipes are installed according to code specifications, ensuring that sewer gases are properly vented and that water traps maintain their seals, preventing harmful gases from entering the building.

Anti-siphon devices are installed on all hose bibs and irrigation systems to prevent contaminated water from backflowing into the potable water supply, protecting both the water quality and the structural integrity from potential water damage.

All pipes running through exterior walls or unheated spaces are insulated according to code requirements to prevent freezing. This insulation helps avoid pipe bursts that could cause significant water damage and structural issues.

3. Environmental Impact: Plumbing codes also help in conserving water and protecting the environment by promoting efficient plumbing fixtures and practices. Without these codes, there could be excessive water wastage, pollution, and environmental degradation.

4. Property Value: Non-compliance with plumbing codes may lead to issues that affect the value of properties. Poorly installed plumbing systems can result in costly repairs and decreased property value, impacting consumers who own or rent these properties.

Regarding potential harm, ADH Protective Health Codes program focuses on preventative measures by striving to educate plumbers, local inspectors, and residents on effective safe plumbing to avoid actual harms to consumers' health and property. ADH regularly communicates with interested parties to prevent harm to occupants of all structures in the State.

Recent examples include the following: identifying multiple code violations for recently built homes by licensees working outside their scope of practice, without appropriate supervision, and without mandatory inspections; substantial non-compliance and gross malpractice by licensees by failing to adhere to the plumbing standards and required inspections; and, system failures for water, sewage, and gas that would have resulted in danger to the public or property.

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Occupational Entity Questionnaire

2. *How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?*

In the past year, there have been sixteen instances in which property owners and/or consumers were subjected to some form of harm due to unlicensed activities. Remedies included coordination with licensees and property owners to bring the properties into compliance, as well as potential referral to local prosecuting attorney for unauthorized practice.

3. *How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?*

In the past year, there have been four instances in which property owners and/or consumers were subjected to some form of harm by licensees. Remedies included coordination with licensees and property owners to bring the properties into compliance, as well as disciplinary action to licensees up to, and including, revocation of their license.

4. *Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why?*

No applicants were denied authorization, as anyone documenting that they meet the authorization requirements received authorization. The only applicants that were not allowed to advance were the one who failed to provide sufficient documentation of their current licensure or experience or provide documentation required for a Waiver of Disqualifying Offences. Those that later provided the documentation were approved.

5. *How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves?*

Income \$777,726.15; Expenditures \$827,966.62. The program does not have any funds in reserve, and other associated programs were required to satisfy the net loss. The license fees were last raised in 1988.

6. *If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose?*

There is no amount in reserve.

7. *Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded?*

While the program does receive additional sources of revenue through the limited imposition of civil penalties and inspection fees, the Plumbing and Natural Gas Section is already under funded.

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee  
Occupational Entity Questionnaire

8. *How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities?*

After the last examination of this past fiscal year, ADH had 24 Master candidates and 41 Journeyman candidates that were incomplete and will be rescheduled for examination. This represents approximately 15% of the candidates testing for each category. The program does not track if any applicants who did not progress to the next level were veterans, women, or minorities.

9. *Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicant's complete apprenticeships?*

The established training structure for these licensures is an apprenticeship style program. 77% of this fiscal year's Journeyman Plumber Applicants were released from Arkansas Apprenticeship training. The Office of Skills Development oversees the Plumbing Apprentice Training Programs. It could not provide ADH with a number of those who drop out each year.

10. *In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?*

Plumbing licensing is necessary in order to protect the public's health and safety and property owner's investments. Removal of state licensing requirements would likely prompt municipalities and jurisdictions to adopt individual licensing ordinances to protect their citizens. This is evidenced by the few states that have removed or never adopted plumbing licensing on the state level: Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee. There is seldom reciprocity between these districts within the same state. The impact to current license holders and the public would include:

1. Increase the cost of license, which would then be passed on to the consumer and property owners. A plumber would be required to hold a local license for each municipality or jurisdiction worked in.
2. Inconsistency of requirements. Each municipality or jurisdiction could establish licensing rules, testing requirements, or adopt different codes for their areas, which leads to confusion, frustration, and increased costs.
3. Apprentice training would be impacted. By having state licensing standards, an apprentice can be confident that the training he receives is accepted throughout the state as he works toward becoming fully licensed in his chosen trade.

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4. The reciprocal agreements that Arkansas plumbers and those of neighboring states now have available would become void.

State licensing provides the citizens of our state confidence that their health and safety are of the highest priority and that property owners' investments are protected. A plumbing license assures the public including property owners that the person working on their water, wastewater, or natural gas system is competent and trained to meet the licensing standards. Lowering or removing those requirements would place the citizens of our state at risk.