

Jumpstart Independent Trade Act

A BILL FOR AN ACT

relating to labor and industry; establishing a tiered licensing system for electrical and plumbing trades; creating a high school trade summer program; providing workforce development pathways; defining supervision, permitting, insurance, and identification requirements; providing enforcement; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [PURPOSE AND INTENT.]

Subdivision 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this act is to:

- (1) expand Minnesota's skilled workforce in electrical and plumbing trades;
- (2) reduce labor shortages and project delays;
- (3) create early-entry pathways for students and workers;
- (4) maintain strict safety and quality standards;
- (5) support long-term economic growth through workforce development;
- (6) provide young individuals the opportunity to enter trades early and begin earning income with minimal or no upfront cost when trained through approved high school programs;
- (7) lower the cost of basic repair work for homeowners by increasing the number of qualified entry-level technicians; and
- (8) increase consumer choice by expanding access to service providers across all licensing tiers.

Subdivision 2. Intent.

It is the intent of the legislature to establish a structured, step-based system allowing individuals to enter, train, advance, and master skilled trades while maintaining safety, accountability, and clearly defined work boundaries.

Section 2. [DEFINITIONS.]

Subdivision 1. "Tier 1 Technician" means an entry-level licensed individual authorized to perform basic, non-invasive work.

Subdivision 2. "Tier 2 Technician" means an intermediate licensed individual authorized to perform system modifications and expanded scope work.

Subdivision 3. "Tier 3 Technician" means a master-level licensed individual authorized to perform full system installations, replacements, and oversight.

Subdivision 4. "Department" means the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Subdivision 5. "High School Trade Program" means a state-recognized training program under this act.

Section 3. [TIERED LICENSING SYSTEM ESTABLISHED.]

Subdivision 1. Creation.

The Department shall establish a three-tier licensing system for electrical and plumbing trades.

Subdivision 2. Cross-tier authority.

- (a) Tier 3 may perform all tier work.
- (b) Tier 2 may perform Tier 1 and Tier 2 work.
- (c) Tier 1 is limited to Tier 1 work.

Section 4. [TIER 1 — ENTRY TECHNICIAN.]

Subdivision 1. Electrical — Scope.

A Tier 1 Electrical Technician may:

- (1) replace outlets, switches, and lighting fixtures;
- (2) install ceiling fans and basic lighting systems;
- (3) replace non-main breakers;
- (4) perform basic troubleshooting not involving system design changes.

Limitations:

- (5) shall not perform main service panel work;
- (6) shall not run new circuits;
- (7) shall not perform concealed wiring without supervision;
- (8) shall not modify system load or design.

Subdivision 2. Plumbing — Scope.

A Tier 1 Plumbing Technician may:

- (1) replace faucets, sinks, and toilets;
- (2) install garbage disposals;
- (3) repair minor leaks in exposed piping;
- (4) replace visible piping sections.

Limitations:

- (5) shall not modify water supply systems;
- (6) shall not alter drainage systems;
- (7) shall not perform concealed piping without supervision;
- (8) shall not perform full system installations.

Subdivision 3. Training Requirements.

A Tier 1 Technician must complete a minimum 14-week certification program approved by the Department, including programs offered through high schools, technical schools, or approved training centers.

Section 5. [TIER 2 — INTERMEDIATE TECHNICIAN.]

Subdivision 1. Electrical — Scope.

A Tier 2 Electrical Technician may:

- (1) perform all Tier 1 work;
- (2) run new branch circuits;
- (3) install and upgrade subpanels;
- (4) modify existing electrical systems;
- (5) perform wiring within walls and structures.

Limitations:

- (6) shall not replace main service panels;
- (7) shall not perform full structure rewiring independently;
- (8) shall not sign off on major system installations.

Subdivision 2. Plumbing — Scope.

A Tier 2 Plumbing Technician may:

- (1) perform all Tier 1 work;
- (2) install new water supply lines;
- (3) replace sections of drainage systems;
- (4) complete rough-in plumbing for remodels;
- (5) modify plumbing layouts.

Limitations:

- (6) shall not perform full system replacements;
- (7) shall not perform new construction plumbing systems independently;
- (8) shall not sign off on major plumbing systems.

Subdivision 3. Advancement Requirements.

- (1) completion of Tier 1;
- (2) 1,000 to 2,000 documented work hours or apprenticeship.

Section 6. [TIER 3 — MASTER TECHNICIAN.]

Subdivision 1. Electrical — Scope.

A Tier 3 Electrical Technician may:

- (1) perform all Tier 1 and Tier 2 work;
- (2) replace main electrical panels;
- (3) complete full structure rewiring;

- (4) design and install electrical systems for new construction;
- (5) perform load calculations and system balancing;
- (6) approve and sign off on electrical work.

Subdivision 2. Plumbing — Scope.

A Tier 3 Plumbing Technician may:

- (1) perform all Tier 1 and Tier 2 work;
- (2) install full plumbing systems;
- (3) replace entire plumbing systems;
- (4) install sewer and drainage systems;
- (5) design plumbing systems for new construction;
- (6) approve and sign off on plumbing work.

Subdivision 3. Advancement Requirements.

- (1) completion of Tier 2;
- (2) 4,000 to 8,000 documented work hours;
- (3) successful completion of a master licensing examination.

Section 7. [HIGH SCHOOL TRADE SUMMER PROGRAM.]

Subdivision 1. Establishment.

The Department shall establish a statewide summer trade training program.

Subdivision 2. Eligibility.

Participants must be at least 16 years old and enrolled in a Minnesota high school or equivalent.

Subdivision 3. Structure.

Programs shall run 10 to 14 weeks and include classroom and hands-on training.

Subdivision 4. Curriculum.

Includes safety, electrical and plumbing fundamentals, tool usage, and job readiness.

Subdivision 5. Outcome.

Graduates receive pre-apprentice certification and eligibility for Tier 1.

Subdivision 6. Safety.

All work must be supervised and within Tier 1 scope.

Section 8. [SUPERVISION AND RESPONSIBILITY STRUCTURE.]

Subdivision 1. Tier 1 under Tier 2.

Tier 1 may work under Tier 2 supervision with direct on-site observation.

Subdivision 2. Tier 2 under Tier 3.
Tier 2 may work under Tier 3 supervision.

Subdivision 3. Combined Work.
Tier 1 and Tier 2 may work under Tier 3.

Subdivision 4. Responsibility.
Tier 3 assumes full responsibility for all supervised work.

Subdivision 5. Liability.
The supervising technician is legally accountable for compliance and safety.

Section 9. [BUSINESS REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.]

Subdivision 1. Insurance.
All technicians operating independently must maintain active liability insurance.

Subdivision 2. Proof.
Insurance must be provided prior to work and maintained at all times.

Subdivision 3. Business Registration.
Independent workers must register as a Minnesota business entity.

Section 10. [PERMIT REQUIREMENTS BY TIER.]

Subdivision 1. General.
All work requiring permits must comply with this section.

Subdivision 2. Tier 1.
May perform permitted minor work within scope and may pull limited permits or work under supervision.

Subdivision 3. Tier 2.
May pull permits for all Tier 2 work and supervise Tier 1.

Subdivision 4. Tier 3.
Must pull permits for major work and holds full authority.

Subdivision 5. Responsibility.
The permit holder is legally responsible for all work.

Section 11. [LICENSE IDENTIFICATION AND PROOF OF INSURANCE.]

Subdivision 1. ID Card.

All technicians must carry a state-issued ID showing name, license number, tier, trade, and expiration.

Subdivision 2. Presentation.

Must present ID and disclose tier before starting work.

Subdivision 3. Insurance Proof.

Must provide proof of insurance upon request.

Subdivision 4. Consumer Rights.

Customers may verify credentials and refuse service if not provided.

Subdivision 5. Violations.

Failure results in fines, suspension, or penalties.

Section 12. [OPTIONAL ECONOMIC REPORTING.]

Voluntary submission of anonymized financial data for workforce planning.

Section 13. [ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.]

- (1) fines for violations;
- (2) license suspension or revocation;
- (3) mandatory retraining;
- (4) random inspections.

Section 14. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

This act is effective January 1 following enactment.