

Sterling Stewart (ORU)

Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature

Lobby Competition

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OSU-009

Essentially, this bill, “The Plumbing Practical Skills Examination Act of 2025,” represents a commonsense step toward improving public safety, strengthening Oklahoma’s workforce, and ensuring that licensed tradesmen meet the highest standards of professionalism. Plumbing is a vital trade that directly affects aspects of daily life, from clean drinking water to wastewater management.

One of the strongest advantages of this bill is its emphasis on hands-on competency. While written examinations measure a candidate’s understanding of code and theory, they cannot fully determine whether an individual can perform the actual tasks required on the job. A practical skills assessment closes this gap by evaluating real-world abilities such as pipe fitting, leak detection, fixture installation, and compliance with the state plumbing code. This ensures that the plumbers working in homes, businesses, hospitals, and schools are truly prepared to do the job safely and effectively. By raising the bar for licensing, the act protects Oklahoma families and reduces the likelihood of avoidable plumbing failures that carry significant financial and health consequences.

I strongly advocate for this bill. In my opinion, this bill ensures we have qualified plumbers and ensures pro-safety, pro-consumer, and pro-workforce. This bill reflects Oklahoma's commitment to hard work. Reflecting our state motto, Labor Omnia Vinciet, which means labor conquers all.