



2009 SENATE BILL 94

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 20.143 (3) (j), 101.02 (20) (a) and 101.02 (21) (a); and *to create*
2 15.157 (15) and 101.136 of the statutes; **relating to:** the licensing and
3 regulation of thermal system insulation mechanics; creating a thermal system
4 insulation council; requiring the employment of a state inspector; establishing
5 standards for installing and maintaining thermal system insulation; requiring
6 the exercise of rule-making authority; making an appropriation; and providing
7 a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

8 **SECTION 1.** 15.157 (15) of the statutes is created to read:
9 15.157 **(15)** THERMAL SYSTEM INSULATION COUNCIL. There is created in the
10 department of commerce a thermal system insulation council consisting of the state

SENATE BILL 94**SECTION 1**

1 thermal system insulation inspector who shall serve as a nonvoting secretary of the
2 council, the secretary of commerce or his or her designee, and the following members
3 appointed for 3-year terms:

4 (a) Two members who represent major insulation companies that sponsor an
5 apprenticeship training program in installing and maintaining thermal system
6 insulation that is approved by the department and that meets the requirements of
7 the department of workforce development under ch. 106.

8 (b) One member who is an architect licensed to do business in this state with
9 work experience in the area of indoor air quality.

10 (c) Two members who are mechanics with at least 10 years of experience in the
11 area of heat and frost insulation and who have successfully completed training in
12 installing and maintaining thermal system insulation under an apprenticeship
13 program that is approved by the department and that meets the requirements of the
14 department of workforce development under ch. 106.

15 (d) One member who is a plumbing, heating, or cooling contractor in this state.

16 **SECTION 2.** 20.143 (3) (j) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 20.143 (3) (j) *Safety and building operations.* The amounts in the schedule for
18 the purposes of chs. 101, 145, and 168 and ss. 236.12 (2) (a), 236.13 (1) (d) and (2m),
19 and 236.335, for the purpose of transferring the amounts in the schedule under par.
20 (kg) to the appropriation account under par. (kg), and for the purpose of transferring
21 the amounts in the schedule under par. (km) to the appropriation account under par.
22 (km). All moneys received under ch. 145, ss. 101.136 (6) (b), 101.177 (4) (a) 4.,
23 101.178, 101.19, 101.63 (9), 101.654 (3), 101.73 (12), 101.82 (4), 101.955 (2), 101.973
24 (7), and 236.12 (7), except moneys received under s. 101.9208 (2m), and all moneys

SENATE BILL 94

1 transferred under 2005 Wisconsin Act 45, section 76 (6), shall be credited to this
2 appropriation.

3 **SECTION 3.** 101.02 (20) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 101.02 **(20)** (a) For purposes of this subsection, “license” means a license,
5 permit or certificate of certification or registration issued by the department under
6 ss. 101.09 (3) (c), 101.122 (2) (c), 101.136, 101.143 (2) (g), 101.15 (2) (e), 101.17,
7 101.177 (4) (a), 101.178 (2) or (3) (a), 101.63 (2) or (2m), 101.653, 101.73 (5) or (6),
8 101.82 (2), 101.87, 101.935, 101.95, 101.951, 101.952, 101.985 (1) to (3), 145.02 (4),
9 145.035, 145.045, 145.15, 145.16, 145.165, 145.17, 145.175, 145.18 or 167.10 (6m).

10 **SECTION 4.** 101.02 (21) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 101.02 **(21)** (a) In this subsection, “license” means a license, permit or
12 certificate of certification or registration issued by the department under s. 101.09
13 (3) (c), 101.122 (2) (c), 101.136, 101.143 (2) (g), 101.15 (2) (e), 101.17, 101.177 (4) (a),
14 101.178 (2) or (3) (a), 101.63 (2), 101.653, 101.73 (5) or (6), 101.82 (2), 101.87, 101.935,
15 101.95, 101.951, 101.952, 101.985 (1) to (3), 145.02 (4), 145.035, 145.045, 145.15,
16 145.16, 145.165, 145.17, 145.175, 145.18 or 167.10 (6m).

17 **SECTION 5.** 101.136 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **101.136 Regulation of thermal system insulation installation. (1)**

19 **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

20 (a) “Building” means a commercial, industrial, or residential building,
21 structure, or facility, as defined by the department by rule, but does not include a
22 residential building, structure, or facility that contains 3 or fewer residential units.

23 (b) “Building inspector” means a person who is certified under rules
24 promulgated by the department to make inspections of public buildings and places
25 of employment.

SENATE BILL 94**SECTION 5**

1 (c) “Council” means the thermal system insulation council.

2 (d) “Mechanic” means a person who installs or maintains thermal system
3 insulation in heating, ventilating, cooling, plumbing, and refrigeration systems.

4 (e) “State inspector” means the state thermal system insulation inspector.

5 (f) “Thermal system insulation” means a product that is used in a heating,
6 ventilating, cooling, plumbing, or refrigeration system to insulate any hot or cold
7 surface, including a pipe, duct, valve, boiler, flue, or tank, or equipment on or in a
8 building.

9 **(2) STANDARDS.** The department shall promulgate rules establishing standards
10 for the installation and maintenance of thermal system insulation in buildings. The
11 department shall base the standards, to the extent possible, on national industry
12 standards for installing and maintaining thermal system insulation. Beginning on
13 the first day of the 19th month beginning after the effective date of this subsection
14 [LRB inserts date], thermal system insulation in buildings shall conform to these
15 standards.

16 **(3) DUTIES OF THE THERMAL SYSTEM INSULATION COUNCIL.** (a) The council shall
17 do all of the following:

18 1. Recommend rules for promulgation by the department to establish
19 standards for the installation and maintenance of thermal system insulation in
20 buildings.

21 2. Recommend to the department requirements for the licensure of mechanics
22 and circumstances under which the department may take disciplinary action
23 against a mechanic, including suspension and revocation of a license.

24 3. Recommend to the department qualifications for the state inspector.

SENATE BILL 94

1 4. Recommend to the department training and continuing education
2 requirements for mechanics.

3 (b) The council may consult with engineering authorities and other
4 organizations concerned with safety and health issues related to thermal system
5 insulation and mold in performing its duties under this subsection.

6 **(4) INSPECTION.** (a) The department shall employ a person who has at least 10
7 years of experience as a mechanic, and who has successfully completed an
8 apprenticeship program in installing and maintaining thermal system insulation
9 that is approved by the department and that meets the requirements of the
10 department of workforce development under ch. 106, as the state inspector. The
11 state inspector shall work under the direct supervision of the secretary or his or her
12 designee.

13 (b) The state inspector shall do all of the following:

14 1. Inspect buildings constructed, or in which the mechanical systems have been
15 altered, to determine whether the installation or maintenance of thermal system
16 insulation in those buildings complies with the standards established by the
17 department under sub. (2). The state inspector shall conduct the inspections on a
18 random basis and whenever requested to do so by a building inspector. This
19 subdivision applies to buildings constructed, and mechanical systems that have been
20 altered, on or after the first day of the 19th month beginning after the effective date
21 of this subdivision [LRB inserts date].

22 2. Provide assistance and information to building inspectors who inspect
23 buildings for compliance with the standards established by the department under
24 sub. (2).

SENATE BILL 94**SECTION 5**

1 3. Keep complete and accurate records of all inspected buildings, including a
2 list identifying all buildings that are in compliance with the standards established
3 by the department under sub. (2), a list of all buildings that are not in compliance
4 with the standards established by the department under sub. (2), and a list of all
5 orders that the state inspector issues under par. (c).

6 4. Give written notice of noncompliance to the owner of every building that the
7 state inspector determines does not comply with the standards established by the
8 department under sub. (2).

9 (c) The state inspector may issue an order requiring the owner of a building to
10 make repairs or alterations that the state inspector determines are necessary in
11 order for the building to comply with the standards established by the department
12 under sub. (2). The inspector shall issue such an order in writing.

13 **(5) RULES.** The department shall promulgate rules establishing all of the
14 following:

15 (a) Requirements for the licensing of mechanics. The rules shall provide that
16 a license issued to a mechanic under this section is valid for 2 years and is renewable.

17 (b) A definition of “minor repairs” for purposes of sub. (6) (a) 2.

18 (c) License fees for mechanics. The rules shall establish fees for the licensing
19 of mechanics that are not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 for each license period.

20 (d) Training and continuing education requirements for mechanics.

21 (e) Procedures governing the assessment of forfeitures under sub. (11),
22 including the procedure for issuing an order for an alleged violation of this section,
23 the procedure for contesting an order issued for an alleged violation of this section,
24 and the procedure for contesting the assessment of a forfeiture for an alleged
25 violation of this section.

SENATE BILL 94

1 **(6) LICENSING OF MECHANICS.** (a) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., beginning
2 on the first day of the 24th month beginning after the effective date of this
3 subdivision ... [LRB inserts date], no person may install or maintain thermal system
4 insulation in any building unless that person is a mechanic licensed by the
5 department under this section, is working under the direct supervision of a licensed
6 mechanic, or is serving an apprenticeship in the installation and maintenance of
7 thermal system insulation that meets the requirements specified under ch. 106.

8 2. Subdivision 1. does not apply to a person who makes only minor repairs to
9 thermal system insulation.

10 (b) A person wishing to obtain a mechanic's license shall apply for a license by
11 submitting an application on a form provided by the department together with the
12 applicable fee.

13 (c) Except as provided in par. (d), the department may not issue a license to a
14 mechanic unless the mechanic meets the requirements established by the
15 department by rule and either of the following requirements:

16 1. He or she has at least 1,000 hours of experience in each of 4 consecutive years
17 installing and maintaining thermal system insulation under the supervision of a
18 licensed mechanic and has passed an examination approved by the department.

19 2. He or she has successfully completed training in installing and maintaining
20 thermal system insulation under an apprenticeship program that is approved by the
21 department and that meets the requirements of the department of workforce
22 development under ch. 106.

23 (d) The department may waive any requirement, or any portion of a
24 requirement under par. (c) for any person with experience in installing or

SENATE BILL 94**SECTION 5**

1 maintaining thermal system insulation upon submission of evidence satisfactory to
2 the department that the person is qualified for licensure.

3 (e) The department may not renew a license issued to a mechanic under this
4 section unless the mechanic submits a certificate to the department that
5 demonstrates that the mechanic has attended and successfully completed during the
6 previous license period a continuing education course approved by the department,
7 upon consultation with the council.

8 (7) LICENSING EXCEPTIONS. The department may waive a licensing requirement
9 under sub. (6) for any person who is licensed as a mechanic in another state in which
10 the standards for licensure are at least as strict as the requirements under sub. (6).

11 (8) TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY LICENSES. The department may promulgate
12 rules establishing standards and procedures for the issuance of temporary and
13 emergency licenses for mechanics. The rule shall provide that a temporary or
14 emergency license issued under this subsection is valid for 30 days.

15 (9) PROHIBITIONS. No person may do any of the following:

16 (a) Make a false statement of material fact in an application for the issuance
17 or renewal of a license under this section.

18 (b) Engage in fraud, misrepresentation, or bribery to obtain a license under this
19 section.

20 (10) PENALTIES. A person who violates this section or who fails to comply with
21 an order issued by the state inspector under this section is subject to a forfeiture of
22 not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000 for each violation.

23 (11) ASSESSMENT OF FORFEITURES BY THE DEPARTMENT. (a) The department may
24 directly assess a forfeiture by issuing an order against any person who violates this

SENATE BILL 94

1 section or who fails to comply with an order issued by the state inspector under this
2 section.

3 (b) The department shall remit all forfeitures paid to the department under this
4 subsection to the secretary of administration for deposit into the school fund.

5 (c) All forfeitures that are not paid to the department as required under this
6 subsection shall accrue interest at the rate of 12 percent per year.

7 (d) The attorney general may bring an action in the name of the state to collect
8 any forfeiture imposed by the department, or interest accrued, if the forfeiture or
9 interest has not been paid after the exhaustion of all administrative and judicial
10 reviews. The only contestable issue in such an action is whether the forfeiture has
11 been paid.

12 **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

13 (1) COUNCIL. Notwithstanding the length of terms of the members of the
14 thermal system insulation council specified in section 15.157 (15) (a) to (d) of the
15 statutes, as created by this act, the initial members shall be appointed for the
16 following terms:

17 (a) Two members for a term that expires on July 1, 2012.

18 (b) Two members for a term that expires on July 1, 2013.

19 (c) Two members for a term that expires on July 1, 2014.

20 **SECTION 7. Fiscal changes.**

21 (1) STATE THERMAL SYSTEM INSULATION INSPECTOR. In the schedule under section
22 20.005 (3) of the statutes for the appropriation to the department of commerce under
23 section 20.143 (3) (j) of the statutes, as affected by the acts of 2009, the dollar amount
24 is increased by \$78,100 for fiscal year 2009–10 and the dollar amount is increased
25 by \$78,100 for fiscal year 2010–11 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the

SENATE BILL 94

SECTION 7

1 department of commerce by 1.0 PR position to perform the responsibilities of the
2 state thermal system insulation inspector.

3 **SECTION 8. Effective date.**

4 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after
5 publication of the 2009–11 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

6 (END)