The Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and Utilities offered the following substitute to HB 904:

# A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 8, 10, 36, 43, and 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to 2 buildings and housing, commerce and trade, local government, professions and businesses, 3 and public utilities and public transportation, respectively, so as to change certain provisions 4 relating to certain professions practicing in this state; to change certain provisions relating 5 to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned air contractors, low voltage contractors, and 6 utility contractors; to change certain definitions; to provide for qualifications of the State 7 Construction Industry Licensing Board; to provide for certain restrictions relating to classes 8 of low voltage licenses; to change certain provisions related to the power and duties of the 9 divisions and the division director; to provide for additional licensing requirements; to 10 provide requirements for license renewals and inactive licenses; to provide for approval of 11 safety training; to change certain provisions relating to applicability; to provide for 12 conforming cross-references and terminology; to provide for related matters; to provide for 13 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

# PART I

SECTION 1-1.

17 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,

18 is amended by revising Chapter 14, relating to electrical contractors, plumbers, conditioned19 air contractors, low-voltage contractors, and utility contractors, as follows:

20

# "CHAPTER 14

21 43-14-1.

22 This chapter is enacted for the purpose of safeguarding homeowners, other property 23 owners, tenants, and the general public against faulty, inadequate, inefficient, or unsafe 24 electrical, plumbing, low-voltage low voltage wiring, utility contracting, or conditioned air 25 installations. The practice practices of electrical contracting, plumbing contracting, 26 installing, or repairing, low-voltage low voltage contracting, utility contracting, and 27 conditioned air contracting are declared to be businesses or professions affecting the public 28 interest; and this chapter shall be liberally construed so as to accomplish the purposes 29 stated in this Code section.

30 43-14-2.

31 As used in this chapter, the term:

 $32 \quad (.1)(1)$  'Alarm system' means any device or combination of devices used to detect a

33 situation, causing an alarm in the event of a burglary, fire, robbery, medical emergency,

34 or equipment failure, or on the occurrence of any other predetermined event.

- (1)(2) 'Board' means the State Construction Industry Licensing Board.
- 36 (2)(3) 'Certificate of competency' means a valid and current certificate <u>that is</u> issued by
- 37 the Division of Electrical Contractors created in Code Section 43-14-3, which certificate

38 shall give and that gives the named electrical contractor to which it is issued authority to
39 engage in electrical contracting of the kind described therein. Certificates of competency
40 shall be of two kinds, Class I and Class II, according to the classification of license held
41 by the electrical contractor.

42 (3)(4) 'Conditioned air contracting' means the installation, repair, or service of
43 conditioned air systems or conditioned air equipment<del>, which includes, but is not limited</del>
44 to:

(A) Service to or installation of the electrical connection between the electrical
 disconnect and conditioned air equipment is considered to be installation, repair, or
 service of conditioned air equipment or the conditioned air system.; and

(B) Service to or installation of the electrical circuit from the electrical distribution
 panel to the conditioned air equipment where the electrical service to the building or
 site is a single-phase electrical circuit not exceeding 200 amperes is considered to be
 installation, repair, or service of conditioned air equipment or the conditioned air
 system.

53 (4)(5) 'Conditioned air contractor' means an individual who is any person engaged in 54 conditioned air contracting under express or implied contract or who that bids for, offers 55 to perform, purports to have the capacity to perform, or does perform conditioned air 56 contracting services under express or implied contract. The term 'conditioned air 57 contractor' Such term shall not include a person an individual who is an employee of a 58 conditioned air contractor and who receives only a salary or hourly wage for performing 59 conditioned air contracting work.

(5)(6) 'Conditioned air equipment' means heating and air-conditioning equipment
 covered under state codes and the natural gas piping system on the outlet side of the gas
 meter.

63 (6)(7) 'Electrical contracting' means the installation, maintenance, alteration, or repair
 64 of any electrical equipment, apparatus, control system, or electrical wiring device which

is attached to or incorporated into any building or structure in this state but shall not
 include low-voltage low voltage contracting.

67 (7)(8) 'Electrical contractor' means any person who engages engaged in the business of 68 electrical contracting under express or implied contract or who that bids for, offers to 69 perform, purports to have the capacity to perform, or does perform electrical contracting 70 services under express or implied contract. The term 'electrical contractor' Such term 71 shall not include a person an individual who is an employee of an electrical contractor 72 and who receives only a salary or hourly wage for performing electrical contracting work. 73 (8)(9) 'Executive director' means the executive director of the State Construction 74 Industry Licensing Board.

75 (8.1)(10) 'General system' means any electrical system, other than an alarm or
 76 telecommunication system, involving low-voltage low voltage wiring.

(9)(11) 'Journeyman plumber' means any person individual other than a master plumber
who has practical knowledge of the installation of plumbing and installs plumbing under
the direction of a master plumber.

(10)(12) 'License' means a valid and current certificate of registration issued by a
 division of the board, which certificate shall give the named person to whom it is issued
 authority to engage in the activity prescribed thereon.

83 (10.1)(13) 'Low voltage 'Low-voltage contracting' means the installation, alteration,
84 service, or repair of a telecommunication system, alarm system, or general system
85 involving low-voltage low voltage wiring.

(10.2)(14) 'Low voltage 'Low-voltage contractor' means an individual who is any person
 engaged in low-voltage low voltage contracting under express or implied contract or who
 that bids for, offers to perform, purports to have the capacity to perform, or does perform
 low-voltage low voltage contracting services under express or implied contract. An
 employee of a low-voltage contractor who receives only a salary or hourly wage for

91 performing low-voltage contracting work shall not be required to be licensed under this

92 chapter, except that those employees upon whom the qualification of a partnership,

93 limited liability company, or corporation rests as outlined in subsection (b) of Code

94 Section 43-14-8.1 shall be licensed.

95 (10.3)(15) 'Low voltage 'Low-voltage wiring' means:

96 (A) Wiring systems of 50 volts or less and control circuits directly associated97 therewith;

(B) Wiring systems having a voltage in excess of 50 volts, provided such systems
consist solely of power limited circuits meeting the definition of a Class II and Class
III wiring system as defined in Article 725 of the National Electrical Code; or

101 (C) Line voltage wiring having a voltage not in excess of 300 volts to ground and 102 installed from the load-side terminals of a suitable disconnecting means which has been 103 installed for the specific purpose of supplying the <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> wiring 104 system involved or installed from a suitable junction box which has been installed for 105 such specific purpose.

(11)(16) 'Master plumber' means any individual engaging engaged in the business of
 plumbing under express or implied contract or who bids for, offers to perform, purports
 to have the capacity to perform, or does perform plumbing contracting services under
 express or implied contract.

110 (12)(17) 'Plumbing' means:

111 (A) The the practice of installing, maintaining, altering, or repairing piping fixtures, 112 appliances, and appurtenances in connection with sanitary drainage or storm drainage 113 facilities, venting systems, medical gas piping systems, natural gas piping systems on 114 the outlet side of gas meters, or public or private water supply systems within or 115 adjacent to any building, structure, or conveyance, or manhole; provided, however, that 116 after July 1, 1997, only master plumbers and journeyman plumbers who have been 117 certified by the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers to perform

# such tasks shall be authorized to install, maintain, alter, or repair medical gas piping systems. The term 'plumbing' also includes the and

120 (B) The practice of and materials used in installing, maintaining, extending, or altering 121 the natural gas, storm-water, sewerage, and water supply systems of any premises to their connection with any point of public disposal or other acceptable terminal; 122 provided, however, that licensure under this chapter shall not be required for a 123 124 contractor certified by the Department of Public Health to make the connection to any 125 on-site waste-water management system from the stub out exiting the structure to an 126 on-site waste-water management system. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any person who holds a valid master plumbing license or any company which 127 holds a valid utility contractor license shall be qualified to construct, alter, or repair any 128 129 plumbing system which extends from the property line up to but not within five feet of any building, structure, or conveyance, regardless of the cost or depth of any such 130 131 plumbing system.

(12.1)(18) 'Telecommunication system' means a switching system and associated
apparatus which performs the basic function of two-way voice or data service, or both,
and which can be a commonly controlled system capable of being administered both
locally and remotely via secured access.

(13)(19) 'Utility contracting' means undertaking to construct, erect, alter, or repair or
 have constructed, erected, altered, or repaired any utility system.

(14)(20) 'Utility contractor' means a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation
which is engaged in utility contracting under express or implied contract or which bids
for, offers to perform, purports to have the capacity to perform, or does perform utility
contracting under express or implied contract.

- 142 (15)(21) 'Utility foreman' means any individual who is employed by a licensed contractor
- 143 to supervise the construction, erection, alteration, or repair of utility systems.

(16)(22) 'Utility manager' means any individual who is employed by a utility contractor
 to have oversight and charge of the construction, erection, alteration, or repair of utility
 systems.

147 (17)(23) 'Utility system' means:

(A) Any system at least five feet underground, when installed or accessed by trenching,
open cut, cut and cover, or other similar construction methods which install or access
the system from the ground surface, including, but not limited to, gas distribution
systems, electrical distribution systems, communication systems, water supply systems,
and sanitary sewerage and drainage systems; and

(B) Reservoirs and filtration plants, water and waste-water treatment plants, leachate
collection and treatment systems associated with landfills, and pump stations, when the
system distributes or collects a service, product, or commodity for which a fee or price
is paid for said service, product, or commodity or for the disposal of said service,
product, or commodity.

158 43-14-3.

(a) There is created within the executive branch of state government the State Construction
Industry Licensing Board. The board shall be assigned to the Secretary of State's office for
administrative purposes and shall be under the jurisdiction of the division director.

162 (b) The board shall be composed of 27 members as follows:

(1) Five members known as the Division of Electrical Contractors, one of whom shall
be a consulting professional engineer engaged in electrical practice, another of whom
shall be the chief electrical an inspector with electrical inspection duties of a county or
municipality, and shall have served in such office for five years immediately preceding
appointment to the board or a third-party inspector regularly providing inspections to a
county or municipality, and the remaining three of whom shall be engaged in the
electrical contracting business licensed electrical contractors in this state;

(2) Five members known as the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers,
one of whom shall be a full-time plumbing inspector of a county or municipality, three
of whom shall be master or contracting plumbers, and one of whom shall be a
journeyman plumber;

(3) Five members known as the Division of Conditioned Air Contractors, one of whom
shall be a licensed professional engineer engaged in mechanical practice, one of whom
shall be the chief conditioned air inspector of a county or municipality, and three of
whom shall be conditioned air contractors with more than five years of installation and
service experience in the trade;

(4) Five members known as the Division of Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractors, one
of whom shall be an alarm system low-voltage low voltage contractor, one of whom shall
be an unrestricted low-voltage low voltage contractor, one of whom shall be a
telecommunication system low-voltage low voltage contractor, one of whom shall be a
professional electrical engineer, and one of whom shall be the chief electrical an inspector
with electrical inspection duties of a county or municipality or contracted by a county or
municipality to perform electrical inspections;

(5) Five members known as the Division of Utility Contractors, three of whom shall be
utility contractors, one of whom shall be a registered professional engineer, and one of
whom shall be an insurance company representative engaged primarily in the bonding of
construction projects; and

(6) Two members who shall not have any connection with the electrical contracting,
 plumbing, or conditioned air contracting businesses whatsoever but who shall have a
 recognized interest in consumer affairs and consumer protection concerns.

193 (c) All members shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the194 Senate, for four-year terms.

195 (d) A member shall serve until a successor has been duly appointed and qualified.

(e) The Governor shall make appointments to fill the unexpired portions of any terms
vacated for any reason. In making such appointments, the Governor shall preserve the
composition of the board as required by this chapter. Members shall be eligible for
reappointment.

(f) Any appointive <u>appointed</u> member who, during his or her term, shall cease to meet the
 qualifications for original appointment shall <del>thereby</del> forfeit membership on the board.

(g) Each member of the board shall take an oath of office before the Governor <u>or the</u>
Governor's designee to faithfully perform the duties of such office.

204 (h) The Governor may remove any member for failure to attend meetings, neglect of duty,

incompetence, revocation or suspension of professional trade license, or other dishonorableconduct.

207 (i) Members of the board shall be reimbursed as provided for in subsection (f) of Code

- 208 Section 43-1-2.
- 209 43-14-4.

210 (a) The office of chairperson shall be rotated among the five divisions enumerated in Code

211 Section 43-14-3 unless the board, through its rules and regulations, provides otherwise.

212 Any vacancy in the office of chairperson shall be filled by the members for the unexpired

213 term. The person individual selected to fill the vacancy shall be a member of the same

214 division as the previous chairperson.

(b) The board shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the recommendation of a

216 majority of its members.

217 (c) Each division within the board shall also elect from its membership a chairperson who

shall serve for a term of two years. Any vacancy in the office of chairperson shall be filled

- 219 by one of the members for the unexpired term.
- 220 (d) Any member elected chairperson of a division may serve more than one consecutive
- term of office.

- (e) Each division shall carry out its powers and duties provided for in this chapter with the
- assistance of the executive director and staff of the board.
- (f) The divisions shall meet at the call of the chairperson.
- 225 (g) Three members of each division shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
- business of such division.

227 43-14-5.

228 The board shall have the power to:

(1) Request from the various state departments and other agencies and authorities of the
state and its political subdivisions and their agencies and authorities such available
information as it may require in its work; and all such agencies and authorities shall
furnish such requested available information to the board within a reasonable time;

(2) Provide by regulation for reciprocity with other states in the registration and licensing
of electrical contractors, master plumbers, journeyman plumbers, low-voltage low voltage
contractors, utility contractors, or conditioned air contractors and in the certification of
utility contracting foremen, provided that such other states have requirements
substantially equal similar to the requirements in force in this state for registration,
licensure, and certification; provided, further, that a similar privilege is offered to
residents of this state;

(3) Adopt an official seal for its use and change it at pleasure modify such seal as the
 board deems necessary;

(4) Establish the policies for regulating the businesses of electrical contracting,
 plumbing, low-voltage, utility plumbing contracting, low voltage contracting, utility
 contracting, and conditioned air contracting;

- $\frac{(4.1)(5)}{(4.1)(5)}$  Upon notice and hearing authorized and conducted in accordance with Code Section  $\frac{43-14-10}{43-14-14}$  and any rules and regulations promulgated by the board,
- either by the board directly or through a valid delegation of the board's enforcement

power to a division thereof, assess civil penalties in an amount up to \$10,000.00 per

violation against any person found to be in violation of any requirement of this chapter;

- 250 (5)(6) Determine qualifications for licensure or certification including such experience
- requirements as the board deems necessary; and
- (6)(7) Promulgate and adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out this chapter.
- 253 43-14-6.

254 (a) The Division of Electrical Contractors, with respect to applicants for a license to 255 engage in or licensees engaging in the business of electrical contracting; the Division of 256 Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers, with respect to applicants for a license to 257 engage in or licensees engaging in the business of plumbing as master plumbers or 258 journeyman plumbers; the Division of Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractors, with respect 259 to applicants for a license to engage in or licensees engaging in the business of low-voltage 260 low voltage contracting; the Division of Utility Contractors with respect to applicants for 261 a license to engage in or licensees engaging in the business of utility contracting and with 262 respect to applicants for a certificate to be a utility manager or utility foreman or holders 263 of a utility manager or utility foreman certificate; and the Division of Conditioned Air 264 Contractors, with respect to applicants for a license to engage in or licensees engaging in 265 the business of conditioned air contracting, shall:

(1) Approve examinations for all applicants for licenses or certificates, except for utility
 contractor licenses and utility foreman certificates<del>, as follows:</del>

(A) The Division of Electrical Contractors shall approve separate examinations for
Class I and Class II licenses. Class I licenses shall be restricted to electrical contracting
involving multifamily structures of not more than two levels or single-family dwellings
of up to three levels. In addition, the; provided, however, that such structures shall have
single-phase electrical installations which do not exceed 400 amperes at the service

drop or the service lateral. Class II licenses shall be unrestricted.:

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| 274 | (B) The Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers shall approve separate           |
| 275 | examinations for Master Plumber Class I, Master Plumber Class II, and Journeyman             |
| 276 | Plumbers. Master Plumber Class I licenses shall be restricted to plumbing involving          |
| 277 | single-family dwellings and one-level dwellings designed for not more than two               |
| 278 | families and commercial structures not to exceed 10,000 square feet in area. Master          |
| 279 | Plumber Class II licenses shall be unrestricted. Only a Master Plumber Class I or a          |
| 280 | Master Plumber Class II shall be authorized to install, maintain, alter, or repair medical   |
| 281 | gas piping systems;  |
| 282 | (C) The Division of Conditioned Air Contractors shall approve separate examinations          |
| 283 | for Class I and Class II licenses. Class I licenses shall be restricted to the installation, |
| 284 | repair, or service of conditioned air systems or equipment not exceeding 175,000 BTU         |
| 285 | (net) of heating and five tons (60,000 BTU) of cooling. Class II licenses shall be           |
| 286 | unrestricted-; and   |
| 287 | (D) The Division of Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractors shall approve separate               |
| 288 | examinations for:  |
| 289 | (i) Low Voltage Low-voltage Contractor Class LV-A; licenses restricted to alarm and          |
| 290 | general system low voltage contracting;  |
| 291 | (ii) Low Voltage Low-voltage Contractor Class LV-T, licenses restricted to                   |
| 292 | telecommunication and general system low voltage contracting;                                |
| 293 | (iii) Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-G licenses restricted to general system low            |
| 294 | voltage contracting; and   |
| 295 | (iv) Low Voltage Contractor Low-voltage Contractor Class LV-U, and Low-voltage               |
| 296 | Contractor Class LV-G. Class LV-A licenses shall be restricted to alarm and general          |
| 297 | system low-voltage contracting, Class LV-T licenses shall be restricted to                   |
| 298 | telecommunication and general system low-voltage contracting, Class LV-G licenses            |
| 299 | shall be restricted to general system low-voltage contracting, and Class LV-U licenses       |
|     |  |

- 300 <u>that</u> shall be unrestricted and permit the performance of alarm, telecommunication,
  301 and general system <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> contracting;
  302 (2) Register and license or grant a certificate and issue renewal licenses and renewal
  303 certificates biennially to all persons meeting the qualifications for a license or certificate.
  304 The following licenses or certificates shall be issued by the divisions:
  305 (A) Electrical Contractor Class I;
- 306 (B) Electrical Contractor Class II;
- 307 (C) Master Plumber Class I;
- 308 (D) Master Plumber Class II;
- 309 (E) Journeyman Plumber;
- 310 (F) Conditioned Air Contractor Class I;
- 311 (G) Conditioned Air Contractor Class II;
- 312 (H) Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-A;
- 313 (I) Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-T;
- 314 (J) Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-G;
- 315 (K) Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-U;
- 316 (L) Utility Contractor; Class A;
- 317 (M) Utility Contractor; Class B;
- 318 (N) Utility Contractor; Class U;
- 319 (O) Utility Manager (certificate); and
- 320 (P) Utility Foreman (certificate);

321 (3) Investigate, with the aid of the division director, alleged violations of this chapter or

- 322 other laws and rules and regulations of the board relating to the profession;
- 323 (4) After notice and hearing, have the power to reprimand any person, licensee, or
- 324 certificate holder, or to suspend, revoke, or cancel the license or certificate of or refuse
- 325 to grant, renew, or restore a license or certificate to any person, licensee, or certificate
- 326 holder upon any one of the following grounds:

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(A) The commission of any false, fraudulent, or deceitful act or the use of any forged,

- false, or fraudulent document in connection with the license or certificate requirements
  of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board;
- (B) Failure at any time to comply with the requirements for a license or certificateunder this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board;
- 332 (C) Habitual intemperance in the use of alcoholic spirits, narcotics, or stimulants to
  333 such an extent as to render the license or certificate holder unsafe or unfit to practice
  334 any profession licensed or certified under this chapter;
- 335 (D) Engaging in any dishonorable or unethical conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or336 harm the public;
- 337 (E) Knowingly performing any act which in any way assists an unlicensed or338 noncertified person to practice such profession;
- 339 (F) Violating, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting any violation of any
  340 provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation of the board;
- 341 (G) The performance of any faulty, inadequate, inefficient, or unsafe electrical, 342 plumbing, low-voltage low voltage contracting, utility contracting, or conditioned air 343 contracting likely to endanger life, health, or property. The performance of any work 344 that does not comply with the standards set by state codes or by local codes in 345 jurisdictions where such codes are adopted, provided that such local codes are as 346 stringent as the state codes, or by other codes or regulations which have been adopted 347 by the board, shall be prima-facie evidence of the faulty, inadequate, inefficient, or 348 unsafe character of such electrical, plumbing, low-voltage low voltage contracting, 349 utility contracting, or conditioned air contracting; provided, however, that the board, in its sole discretion, for good cause shown and under such conditions as it may 350 351 prescribe, may restore a license to any person whose license has been suspended or 352 revoked;

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353 (H) With respect to utility contractors, the bidding by such a utility contractor in excess354 of license coverage; or

355 (I) With respect to utility contractors, violations of Chapter 9 of Title 25;

(5) Review amendments to or revisions in the state minimum standard codes as prepared
pursuant to Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 8; and the Department of Community
Affairs shall be required to provide to the division director a copy of any amendment to
or revision in the state minimum standard codes at least 45 days prior to the adoption
thereof; and

361 (6) Do all other things necessary and proper to exercise their powers and perform their362 duties in accordance with this chapter.

363 (b) The Division of Electrical Contractors may also provide, by rules and regulations, for 364 the issuance of certificates of competency pertaining to financial responsibility and 365 financial disclosure; provided, however, that such rules and regulations are adopted by the 366 board. The division shall issue certificates of competency and renewal certificates to 367 persons meeting the qualifications therefor.

368 (c) The divisions mentioned in subsection (a) of this Code section shall also hear appeals
369 resulting from the suspension of licenses by an approved municipal or county licensing or
370 inspection authority pursuant to Code Section 43-14-12 43-14-16.

371 (d)(1) The Division of Conditioned Air Contractors shall be authorized to:

372 (1) Require require persons seeking renewal of Conditioned Air Contractor Class I and

373 Class II licenses to complete board approved continuing education of not more less than
 374 four hours annually:;

375 (2) Approve The division shall be authorized to approve courses offered by institutions
 376 of higher learning, vocational technical schools, and trade, technical, or professional
 377 organizations; provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related
 378 to conditioned air contracting provided or conducted by public utilities, equipment
 379 manufacturers, or institutions under the State Board of the Technical College System of

380 Georgia shall constitute acceptable continuing professional education programs for the 381 purposes of this subsection. Continuing Such continuing education courses or programs 382 shall be in the areas of safety, technological advances, business management, or 383 government regulation. Courses or programs conducted by manufacturers specifically to promote their products shall not be approved. The continuing education requirements 384 385 of this subsection shall not be required for any licensed conditioned air contractor who 386 is a registered professional engineer; 387 (2)(3) Administer all All provisions of this subsection relating to continuing professional 388 education shall be administered by the division .: 389 (3)(4) Waive The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances 390 391 as the board deems appropriate.; and 392 (4)(5) Promulgate The division shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations 393 to implement and ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code section. 394 (5) The continuing education requirements of this subsection shall not be required of any 395 licensed conditioned air contractor who is a registered professional engineer. 396 (6) This Code section shall apply to each licensing and renewal cycle which begins after 397 the 1990-1991 renewal. 398 (e)<del>(1)</del> The Division of Electrical Contractors shall be authorized to: 399 (1) Require individuals require persons seeking renewal of Electrical Contractor Class 400 I and Class II licenses to complete board approved courses or courses which meet board

401 <u>criteria for</u> continuing education <del>courses</del> of not <del>more</del> <u>less</u> than four hours annually<del>.</del>;

402 (2) Approve The division shall be authorized to approve continuing education courses 403 to be held within or outside this state that are available to all licensed electrical 404 contractors on a reasonable nondiscriminatory fee basis. Any request for division 405 approval of a continuing education course shall be submitted in a timely manner with due 406 regard for the necessity of investigation and consideration by the division. The division

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407 may contract with institutions of higher learning, professional organizations, or other 408 qualified persons to provide programs that meet the requirements of this paragraph 409 <u>subsection</u> and any rules or regulations established by the division. Such programs shall 410 be self-sustaining by the individual fees set and collected by the provider of the program...

411 <u>and</u>

412 (2)(3) Waive The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education
413 requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances
414 as the division deems appropriate.

415 (f)(1) The Division of Utility Contractors shall be authorized to:

416 (1) Require individuals require persons seeking renewal of utility foreman certificates
417 and utility manager certificates issued under this chapter to complete board approved
418 continuing education of not more than four hours annually.;

419 (2) Approve The division shall be authorized to approve courses offered by institutions
 420 of higher learning, vocational-technical schools, and trade, technical, or professional
 421 organizations; provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related
 422 to utility contracting provided or conducted by institutions under the State Board of the
 423 Technical College System of Georgia shall constitute acceptable continuing professional
 424 education programs for the purposes of this subsection<del>;</del> and

425 (2)(3) Waive The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education

- 426 requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances427 as the division deems appropriate.
- 428 (g)(1) The Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers shall be authorized to:

429 (1) Require individuals require persons seeking renewal of Journeyman Plumber, Master

430 Plumber Class I, and Master Plumber Class II licenses to complete board approved

- 431 continuing education of not more <u>less</u> than four hours annually-:
- 432 (2) Approve The division shall be authorized to approve courses offered by institutions
- 433 of higher learning, vocational-technical schools, and trade, technical, or professional

434 organizations; provided, however, that continuing education courses or programs related

to plumbing provided or conducted by institutions under the State Board of the Technical

436 College System of Georgia shall constitute acceptable continuing professional education

437 programs for the purposes of this subsection<del>.;</del> and

438 (2)(3) Waive The division shall be authorized to waive the continuing education

- 439 requirements in cases of hardship, disability, or illness or under such other circumstances
- 440 as the division deems appropriate.
- 441 (h) Each division shall make all reasonable efforts to make the continuing education

442 offered pursuant to this Code section available online or through home study courses and

- 443 <u>accessible at times outside of the normal work hours of those licensed by such division.</u>
- 444 43-14-7.

(a) All orders and processes of the board and the divisions of the board shall be signed and
attested by the division director; and any notice or legal process necessary to be served
upon the board or the divisions may be served upon the division director.

(b) The division director or his <u>or her</u> designee is vested with the power and authority to

449 make such investigations in connection with the enforcement of this chapter and the rules

450 and regulations of the board as he the director, the board, the divisions of the board, or any

451 district attorney may deem necessary or advisable.

452 43-14-8.

(a)(1) No person shall engage in the electrical contracting business as an electrical
contractor unless such person has a valid license from the Division of Electrical
Contractors and a certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division
pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6.

457 (2) A person <del>who</del> <u>that</u> is not licensed as an electrical contractor or <del>who</del> <u>that</u> does not have

458 a certificate of competency, if such certificates are issued by the division pursuant to

subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-6, or both as may be applicable, shall be prohibited
from advertising in any manner that such person is in the business or profession of
electrical contracting unless the work is performed by a licensed electrical contractor.

(b)(1) No person shall engage in the business of plumbing contracting as a master 462 463 plumber unless such person has a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any person 464 who holds a valid master plumber license or any company which holds a valid utility 465 466 contractor license shall be qualified to construct, alter, or repair any plumbing system which extends from the property line up to but not within five feet of any building, 467 structure, or conveyance, regardless of the cost or depth of any such plumbing system. 468 (2) No person shall engage in the business of plumbing contracting as a journeyman 469 470 master plumber unless such person has a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers and Journeyman Plumbers. <u>A person that is not licensed as a Master Plumber</u> 471

472 Class 1 or a Master Plumber Class II shall be prohibited from advertising in any manner
473 that such person is in the business or profession of plumbing contracting.

474 (3) A person who does not have a valid license from the Division of Master Plumbers
475 and Journeyman Plumbers shall be prohibited from advertising in any manner that such
476 person is in the business or profession of plumbing as a master plumber or journeyman
477 plumber unless such person is licensed by the Division of Master Plumbers and
478 Journeyman Plumbers and unless the work is performed by a licensed plumber.

479 (c)(1) No person shall engage in the business of conditioned air contracting as a
480 conditioned air contractor unless such person has a valid conditioned air contractor
481 license from the Division of Conditioned Air Contractors.

482 (2) A person who that is not licensed as a conditioned air contractor shall be prohibited
483 from advertising in any manner that such person is in the business or profession of a
484 conditioned air contractor unless the work is performed by a licensed conditioned air
485 contractor.

| 486 | (d)(1) No person shall engage in low voltage contracting unless such person has a valid         |
|-----|---|
| 487 | license from the Division of Low Voltage Contractors; provided, however, that an                |
| 488 | employee of a low voltage contractor who receives only a salary or hourly wage for              |
| 489 | performing low voltage contracting work shall not be required to be licensed under this         |
| 490 | chapter, except that those employees upon whom the qualification of a partnership,              |
| 491 | limited liability company, or corporation rests as provided for in Code Section 43-14-9         |
| 492 | shall be required to be licensed.   |
| 493 | (2) Except as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection, a person that is not licensed       |
| 494 | as a low voltage contractor shall be prohibited from advertising in any manner that such        |
| 495 | person is in the business or profession of a low voltage contractor unless the work is          |
| 496 | performed by a licensed low voltage contractor.   |
| 497 | (d)(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, prior to and including              |
| 498 | September 30, 1983, the following persons, desiring to qualify under the provisions stated      |
| 499 | in this subsection, shall be issued a state-wide license without restriction by the appropriate |
| 500 | division of the State Construction Industry Licensing Board, provided that such individual      |
| 501 | submits proper application and pays or has paid the required fees and is not otherwise in       |
| 502 | violation of this chapter:  |
| 503 | (1) Any individual holding a license issued by the State Construction Industry Licensing        |
| 504 | Board, prior to the effective date of this chapter;   |
| 505 | (2) Any individual holding a license issued by the State Board of Electrical Contractors,       |
| 506 | the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing Contractors, or the State Board of Warm Air            |
| 507 | Heating Contractors;  |
| 508 | (3) Any individual holding a license to engage in such vocation issued to him or her by         |
| 509 | any governing authority of any political subdivision; and                                       |
| 510 | (4) Any individual who has successfully and efficiently engaged in such vocation in a           |
| 511 | local jurisdiction, which did not issue local licenses, for a period of at least two            |
| 512 | consecutive years immediately prior to the time of application. To prove that he or she         |
|     |   |

has successfully engaged in said vocation, the individual shall only be required to give
evidence of three successful jobs completed over such period. Such applicant shall swear
before a notary public that such evidence is true and accurate prior to its submission to
the division.

517 (c)(f) The decision of the division as to the necessity of taking the examination or as to the 518 qualifications of applicants taking the required examination shall, in the absence of fraud, 519 be conclusive. All individuals, partnerships, limited liability companies, or corporations 520 desiring to engage in such vocation after September 30, 1983, a business licensed under 521 this chapter shall take the examination and qualify under this chapter before engaging in 522 such vocation or business, including such vocation at the local level.

523 (f)(g) No partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall have the right to 524 engage in the business of electrical contracting unless there is regularly connected with 525 such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation a person or persons actually 526 actively engaged in the performance of such business on a full-time basis who have valid 527 licenses issued to them as provided for in this chapter; provided, however, that partners, 528 officers, and employees of any individual who fulfilled the licensing requirements shall 529 continue to be authorized to engage in the business of electrical contracting under a license 530 which was valid at the time of the licensee's death for a period of 60 days from the date of 531 such death. The division may, at its discretion, upon application by the electrical contractor 532 showing good cause, grant one additional 60 day grace period.

533 (g)(h) No partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall have the right to 534 engage in the business of plumbing unless there is regularly connected with such 535 partnership, limited liability company, or corporation a person or persons actually actively 536 engaged in the performance of such business on a full-time basis who have valid licenses 537 for master plumbers issued to them as provided in this chapter; provided, however, that 538 partners, officers, and employees of any individual who fulfilled the licensing requirements 539 shall continue to be authorized to engage in the business of plumbing contracting under a

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540 license which was valid at the time of the licensee's death for a period of 60 days from the

541 date of such death. The division may, at its discretion, upon application by the plumbing

542 <u>contractor showing good cause, grant one additional 60 day grace period</u>.

543 (h)(i) No partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall have the right to 544 engage in the business of conditioned air contracting unless there is regularly connected with such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation a person or persons 545 546 actually actively engaged in the performance of such business on a full-time basis who 547 have valid licenses issued to them as provided for in this chapter; provided, however, that 548 partners, officers, and employees of the individual who fulfilled the licensing requirements 549 shall continue to be authorized to engage in the business of conditioned air contracting 550 under a license which was valid at the time of the licensee's death for a period of  $\frac{90}{90}$  60 551 days following from the date of such death. The division may, at its discretion, upon application by the conditioned air contractor showing good cause, grant one additional 60 552 553 day grace period.

(i)(j) It shall be the duty of all partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations
 qualified under this chapter to notify the appropriate division immediately within seven
 <u>days</u> of the severance of connection with such partnership, limited liability company, or
 corporation of any person or persons upon whom such qualification rested.

558 (j)(k) Applicants All applicants for examinations and licenses provided for by this chapter
and all any applicants for renewal of licenses under this chapter shall be required to fill out
a form which shall be provided by each division, showing whether or not complete a
division approved form on which the applicant will:

562 (1) Indicate if the applicant is an individual, partnership, limited liability company, or
 563 corporation; and, if

- 564 (2) If the applicant is a partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, provide the
- names and addresses of the partners or members or the names and addresses of the

officers, when and where formed or incorporated, and such other information as the board
or each division may require: and

568 (3) If the renewal is for All forms of applications for renewal of licenses shall also show
 569 whether or not the applicant, if it is a partnership, limited liability company, or
 570 corporation, still has connected with it indicate whether a duly qualified person holding
 571 a license issued by the division is still connected with such entity.

572 (k) The board shall notify each local governing authority of the provisions of this chapter 573 relating to licensure, especially the provisions of subsection (d) of this Code section. The 574 board shall notify such governing authorities that after September 30, 1983, any person 575 desiring a license to engage in a profession covered by this chapter shall be required to pass 576 an examination as provided in this chapter. 577 (1) <u>Applicants who have a failing examination score on two consecutive testing attempts</u> within the approved testing time frame Any applicant for licensure standing the 578 579 examination on and after July 1, 1989, who fails the examination for licensure twice after

580 such date shall be required to present satisfactory evidence to the appropriate division that

the applicant has completed a board approved review course before such applicant will be

582 admitted to a third examination approved to take the examination again. If such applicant

583 fails the examination a third time, the applicant shall not be required to complete additional

584 board approved review courses prior to taking subsequent examinations.

585 <del>43-14-8.1</del> <u>43-14-9</u>.

586 (a) For purposes of this Code section only, 'division' means the 'Division of Low-voltage

587 Low Voltage Contractors.'

588 (b) No person shall engage in alarm system, general system, or telecommunication system

589 low-voltage low voltage contracting unless such person has a valid license therefor from

590 the Division of Low-voltage Low Voltage Contracting.

(c)(1) Prior to January 1, 1985, any Any person desiring to qualify under the provisions
of this subsection who meets the requirements of this subsection, submits proper
application prior to and including December 31, 1984, and pays or has paid the required
fees and is not otherwise in violation of this chapter shall be issued a state-wide
Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-A, LV-G, LV-U, or LV-T license
without examination.

597 (2) An individual desiring to obtain Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-T
598 shall submit to the division an affidavit which outlines the experience of said individual
599 in the practice of low-voltage low voltage wiring relating to telecommunication systems.
600 (3) An individual desiring to obtain a Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-A
601 license shall submit to the division an affidavit which outlines the experience of said
602 individual in the practice of low-voltage low voltage wiring relating to alarm systems.

(4) An individual desiring to obtain a Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-G
 license shall submit to the division an affidavit which outlines the experience of said
 individual in the practice of low-voltage low voltage wiring relating to general systems.
 Each such affidavit for licensure shall describe in detail the installation of at least three
 complete low-voltage wiring jobs which shall demonstrate that the individual has
 successfully performed low-voltage wiring in the area of licensure requested for a period
 of at least one year immediately prior to the time of application.

610 (5) An individual desiring to obtain a Low-voltage Low Voltage Contractor Class LV-U 611 license shall submit to the division an affidavit which outlines the experience of said 612 individual in the practice of low-voltage low voltage wiring relating to alarm and 613 telecommunication systems and which describes in detail the installation of at least six 614 complete low-voltage low voltage wiring jobs, three in alarm and three in 615 telecommunication systems, which shall demonstrate that the individual has successfully 616 performed <del>low-voltage</del> low voltage wiring in those areas for a period of at least one year 617 immediately prior to the time of application.

6) Each affidavit for licensure required in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this subsection
shall describe in detail the installation of at least three complete low voltage wiring jobs
which shall demonstrate that the individual has successfully performed low voltage
wiring in the area of licensure requested for a period of at least one year prior to the time
of application.
(d) The decision of the division as to the necessity of taking the examination or as to the

qualifications of applicants taking the required examination shall, in the absence of fraud, be conclusive. All individuals, <u>individuals serving as partners in partnerships</u>, <u>applicants</u> for limited liability companies, or <u>applicants for</u> corporations desiring to engage in the vocation of <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> contracting <del>after December 31, 1984,</del> shall take the examination and qualify under this Code section before engaging in such vocation.

(e) No partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall have the right to engage in the business of <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> contracting unless there is regularly connected with such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation a person or persons, actually <u>actively</u> engaged in the performance of such business on a full-time basis and supervising the <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> systems installation, repair, alteration, and service work of all employees of such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, who have valid licenses issued to them as provided in this chapter.

636 (f) Partnerships, limited liability companies, or corporations having In cases where a partnership, limited liability company, or corporation has more than one office location 637 from which low-voltage low voltage contracting is performed; shall have at least one 638 639 person stationed in each branch office of such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, who is engaged in the performance of low-voltage low voltage contracting on 640 a full-time basis and; who is supervising the low-voltage low voltage wiring systems 641 642 installation, repair, alteration, and service work of all employees of such branch office 643 locations, shall have; and who has a valid license issued as provided in this Code section.

(f) It shall be the duty of all partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations
qualified under this Code section to notify the division, in accordance with board rules, of
severance of connection with such partnership, limited liability company, or corporation
of any person or persons upon whom the qualification of any such partnership, limited
liability company, or corporation rested.

649 (g) All applicants for examinations and licenses provided for by this Code section and all 650 applicants for renewal of licenses under this Code section shall be required to fill out a 651 form which shall be provided by the division, which form shall show whether or not the 652 applicant is an individual, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation and, if a 653 partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, the names and addresses of the partners or members or the names and addresses of the officers, when and where formed 654 655 or incorporated, and such other information as the division in its discretion may require. 656 All forms of application for renewal of licenses shall also show whether or not the 657 applicant, if it is a partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, still has connected 658 with it a duly qualified person holding a license issued by the division. 659 (h) The division shall notify each local governing authority of the provisions of this

(ii) The division shall notify each local governing authority of the provisions of this
 chapter relating to licensure, especially the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code
 section. The division shall notify such governing authorities that after December 31, 1984,
 any person desiring a license to engage in the vocation of low-voltage contracting shall be
 required to pass an examination as provided in this chapter.

664 <del>43-14-8.2</del> <u>43-14-10</u>.

# (a) For purposes of this Code section only, 'division' means the 'Division of UtilityContractors.'

- 667 (b)(1) After June 30, 1994, no No sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation shall
- have the right to engage in the business of utility contracting unless:
- 669 (A) Such such business holds a utility contractor license; and

(B) There there is regularly connected with such business a person or persons who
holds a valid utility manager certificate issued under this chapter, and such. Such utility
manager must be actually actively engaged in the performance of such business on a
full-time basis and <u>must</u> oversee the utility contracting work of all employees of the
business.

675 (2) If In cases where a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation has more than one 676 permanent office, then each permanent office shall be registered with the division and at 677 least one person who holds a valid utility manager certificate issued under this chapter 678 shall be stationed in each office on a full-time basis and shall oversee the utility 679 contracting work of all employees of that office.

(2)(3) The requirements of this Code section shall not prevent any person holding a valid
 license issued by the State Construction Industry Licensing Board, or any division
 thereof, pursuant to this chapter, from performing any work defined in the Code section
 or sections under which the license held by said person was issued.

684 (c) Any corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship desiring to qualify and be issued
685 a utility contractor license under the provisions of this subsection shall:

686 (1) Submit a completed application to the division on the form provided indicating:

687 (A) The names and addresses of proprietor, partners, or officers of such applicant;

(B) The place and date such partnership was formed or such corporation wasincorporated; and

(C) The name of the qualifying utility manager holding a current certificate who is
 employed for each permanent office location of the business from which utility
 contracting is performed;

693 (2) Submit its safety policy which must meet the minimum standards established by the694 board;

695 (3) Pay or have paid the required fees; and

696 (4) Not be otherwise in violation of this chapter.

(d) The decision of the division as to the qualifications of applicants shall, in the absenceof fraud, be conclusive.

(e) It shall be the duty of the utility manager certificate holders and the licensed utility
contractor to notify the division, in accordance with board rules, of <u>the</u> severance of
connection between such utility contractor and the utility manager certificate holder or
holders upon whom the qualification of the utility contractor rested.

703 (f) In the event that a licensed utility contractor temporarily does not have employed a 704 utility manager certificate holder to oversee its utility contracting work, upon notice by 705 such utility contractor to the division within five seven days following the last day of 706 employment of the utility manager certificate holder, the division shall grant the utility 707 contractor a 90 60 day grace period in which to employ a utility manager certificate holder 708 to oversee its utility contracting work before any action may be taken by the division to 709 revoke the utility contractor's license. The division may, at its discretion, upon application 710 by the utility contractor showing good cause, grant one additional 90 60 day grace period. 711 Grace periods totaling not more than  $\frac{180}{120}$  days may be granted during any two-year 712 period. Failure to have employed a utility manager certificate holder to oversee the utility 713 contracting work of the utility contractor shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension 714 of the utility contractor license after a notice of hearing.

(g) All applicants for renewal of utility contractor licenses provided for by this Code
section shall be required to submit with the required fee a completed application on a form
provided by the division.

718 (h) It shall be unlawful for any person to contract with any other person for the

performance of utility contracting work who is known by such person not to have a current,

valid license as a utility contractor pursuant to this chapter.

## 721 <del>43-14-8.3</del> <u>43-14-11</u>.

(a) After June 30, 1994, no No person may be employed as a utility manager unless that
person holds a current utility manager certificate issued by the Division of Utility
Contractors.

725 (b) The division shall certify all applicants for certification under this chapter who satisfy 726 the requirements of this chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated under this 727 chapter. Persons wishing to qualify for utility manager certification shall submit a 728 completed application form documenting required experience and other qualifications as 729 prescribed by the board with the required fees, and shall pass an examination, and. In order 730 to obtain a utility manager certificate, an applicant must submit proof of completion of a 731 board approved safety training course of safety training in utility contracting approved by 732 the division. In order to continue to hold such certificate, the certificate holder must 733 present proof to the division of completion of a safety training course approved by the 734 division at least every two years from the date of the completion of the initial safety training course. 735

736 (c) An applicant may request an oral administration of the examination.

## 737 <del>43-14-8.4</del> <u>43-14-12</u>.

(a) After June 30, 1994, no No person may be employed as a utility foreman unless that
person holds a current utility foreman certificate issued by the Division of Utility
Contractors.

(b) The division shall certify all applicants for certification under this chapter who satisfy the requirements of this chapter and the rules and regulations promulgated under this chapter. One requirement for such certification shall be the successful completion of a <u>board approved safety training</u> course of safety training in utility contracting approved by the division. In order to continue to hold such certificate, the certificate holder must submit proof to the division of completion of a safety training course approved by the division at 147 least every two years from the date of the completion of the initial safety training course. 148 In lieu of safety training any person desiring to be issued a utility foreman certificate may 149 submit a completed application on or before December 31, 1994, which documents to the 150 satisfaction of the division at least two years of experience as a utility foreman during the 151 period between January 1, 1984, and June 30, 1994. Any person who does not submit a 152 completed application for certification on or before December 31, 1994, must complete the 153 required safety training in order to be certified.

- 754 (c) After June 30, 1994, no No utility system shall be constructed, erected, altered, or
   755 repaired unless a certified utility manager or certified utility foreman who holds a current
- 756 certification is present at the job site of such construction, erection, alteration, or repair of
- the utility system.

#### 758 <del>43-14-9</del> <u>43-14-13</u>.

- (a) Every person holding a license issued by a division of the board shall display it in a
  conspicuous manner at his <u>or her</u> place of business.
- 761 (b) All commercial vehicles used by licensees and certificate holders exclusively in the 762 daily operation of their business shall have prominently displayed thereon the company or 763 business registration or certificate number issued by the Secretary of State's office. Such 764 registration number or certificate number, or website address where such number can be 765 found, shall also be prominently displayed on any advertising in telephone yellow pages 766 and newspapers relating to work which a licensee or certificate holder purports to have the 767 capacity to perform. Said registration or certificate number shall also be printed on all 768 invoices and proposal forms.
- 769 <u>43-14-10</u> <u>43-14-14</u>.
- 770 This chapter shall be administered in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia
- 771 Administrative Procedure Act.'

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## 772 <u>43-14-11</u> <u>43-14-15</u>.

773 Whenever it shall appear to a division of the board or to the executive director or to a 774 county or municipal inspection authority that any person is or has been violating this 775 chapter or any of the lawful rules, regulations, or orders of the board, the division of the board, the local inspection authority, or the appropriate prosecuting attorney may file a 776 777 petition for an injunction in the proper superior court of this state against such person for 778 the purpose of enjoining any such violation. It shall not be necessary to allege or prove that 779 there is no adequate remedy at law. The right of injunction provided for in this Code 780 section shall be in addition to any other legal remedy which the board has and shall be in 781 addition to any right of criminal prosecution provided for by law.

#### 782 <del>43-14-12</del> <u>43-14-16</u>.

783 (a) Any municipal or county inspection authority which meets the standards established 784 by the board shall be authorized, after notice and hearing, to suspend the license or 785 certificate of competency of, or refuse to restore a license or certificate of competency to, 786 any person or licensee upon the grounds set out in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Code 787 Section 43-14-6; provided, however, that such suspension of a license by a local inspection 788 authority shall be applicable only within the jurisdiction of such local authority. Any 789 person aggrieved by an action of a local authority shall be entitled to an appeal to the 790 appropriate division of the board and shall be entitled to a hearing.

(b)(1) This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit the governing authority of any county or municipality in the state from adopting and enforcing codes at the local level; provided, however, that no county or municipality may require any licensed conditioned air contractor or licensed plumber who has executed and deposited a bond as authorized in paragraph (2) of this subsection to give or furnish or execute any code compliance bond or similar bond for the purpose of ensuring that all construction, installation, or

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modifications are made or completed in compliance with the county or municipalordinances or building and construction codes.

799 (2) In order to protect the public from damages arising from any work by a licensed 800 conditioned air contractor or licensed plumber, which work fails to comply with the 801 ordinances or building and construction codes adopted by any county or municipal 802 corporation, any such licensed conditioned air contractor or licensed plumber may 803 execute and deposit with the judge of the probate court in the county of his or her 804 principal place of business a bond in the sum of \$10,000.00. Such bond shall be a cash 805 bond of \$10,000.00 or executed by a surety authorized and qualified to write surety bonds 806 in the State of Georgia and shall be approved by the judge of the probate court. Such 807 bond shall be conditioned upon all work done or supervised by such licensee complying 808 with the provisions of any ordinances or building and construction codes of any county 809 or municipal corporation wherein the work is performed. Action on such bond may be 810 brought against the principal and surety thereon in the name of and for the benefit of any 811 person who suffers damages as a consequence of said licensee's work not conforming to 812 the requirements of any ordinances or building and construction codes; provided, 813 however, that the aggregate liability of the surety to all persons so damaged shall in no 814 event exceed the sum of such bond.

(3) In any case where a bond is required under this subsection, the conditioned air
contractor or plumber shall file a copy of the bond with the building official in the
political subdivision wherein the work is being performed.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to or affect any bonding
requirements involving contracts for public works as provided in Chapter 10 of Title 13.
(c) No provision of this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing a
municipality or county from fixing, charging, assessing, or collecting any license fee,
registration fee, tax, or gross receipt tax on any related business or on anyone engaged in
any related business governed by this chapter.

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# 824 <del>43-14-12.1</del> <u>43-14-17</u>.

(a) If a person is in violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c) of Code Section
43-14-8, it shall not be necessary for an investigator to observe or witness the unlicensed
person engaged illegally in the process of work or to show work in progress or work
completed in order to prove the unlawful practice of conditioned air contracting, plumbing
contracting, or electrical contracting by an unlicensed person.

830 (b) It shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this chapter if any person not licensed 831 as a conditioned air contractor, plumbing contractor, or electrical contractor advertises that 832 such person is in the business or profession of a conditioned air contractor, plumbing 833 contractor, or electrical contractor or advertises in a manner such that the general public 834 would believe that such person is a licensed conditioned air contractor or in the business or profession of a conditioned air contractor, is a licensed plumbing contractor in the 835 business or profession of a plumbing contractor, or is a licensed electrical contractor in the 836 837 business or profession of an electrical contractor. Advertising under this subsection 838 includes, but is not limited to, newspaper, internet, social media and digital applications, 839 television, radio, telephone directory listings, mailings, business cards, or sign at signage 840 at a place of business or attached to a vehicle. 841 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Code Section 43-1-20.1, after notice and hearing,

the board may issue a cease and desist order prohibiting any person from violating the provisions of this chapter by engaging in the business or profession of a conditioned air contractor, <u>plumbing contractor</u>, <u>or electrical contractor</u> without a license as required under this chapter.

(d) The violation of any cease and desist order of the board issued under subsection (c) of
this Code section shall subject the person violating the order to further proceedings before
the board, and the board shall be authorized to impose a fine not to exceed \$500.00
\$1,500.00 for each violation thereof. Each day that a person practices in violation of this
Code section and chapter shall constitute a separate violation.

(e) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit the board from seeking
remedies otherwise available by statute without first seeking a cease and desist order in
accordance with the provisions of this Code section.

#### 854 <del>43-14-12.2</del> <u>43-14-18</u>.

(a) If a person is in violation of Code Section 43-14-8.2, 43-14-8.3, or 43-14-8.4 43-14-10,
43-14-11, or 43-14-12, it shall not be necessary for an investigator to observe or witness
the unlicensed person engaged illegally in the process of work or to show work in progress
or work completed in order to prove the unlawful practice of utility contracting by an
unlicensed person.

(b) It shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this chapter if any person not licensed as a utility contractor advertises that such person is in the business or profession of a utility contractor or advertises in a manner such that the general public would believe that such person is a licensed utility contractor or in the business or profession of a utility contractor. Advertising under this subsection includes, but is not limited to, newspaper, television, or radio advertisements, telephone directory listings, mailings, business cards, or a sign or signs at a place of business or attached to a vehicle.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Code Section 43-1-20.1, after notice and hearing, the board may issue a cease and desist order prohibiting any person from violating the provisions of this chapter by engaging in the business or profession of a utility contractor without a license as required under this chapter or by constructing, erecting, altering, or repairing a utility system without a properly certified utility manager or properly certified utility foreman present at such job site.

(d) The violation of any cease and desist order of the board issued under subsection (c) of
this Code section shall subject the person violating the order to further proceedings before
the board, and the board shall be authorized to impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000.00 for
each violation thereof. Each day that a person practices in violation of this Code section

and chapter or constructs, erects, alters, or repairs a utility system without a properly
certified utility manager or properly certified utility foreman present at such job site shall
constitute a separate violation.

(e) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit the board from seeking
remedies otherwise available by statute without first seeking a cease and desist order in
accordance with the provisions of this Code section.

# 883 4<del>3-14-13</del> <u>43-14-19</u>.

(a) This chapter shall apply to all installations, alterations, and repairs of plumbing,
air-conditioning and heating, or electrical or <del>low-voltage</del> <u>low voltage</u> wiring or utility
systems within or on public or private buildings, structures, or premises except as otherwise
provided in this Code section.

(b) Any person who that holds a license issued under this chapter may engage in the
business of plumbing <u>contracting</u>, electrical contracting, conditioned air contracting,
low-voltage low voltage contracting, or utility contracting but only as prescribed by the
license, throughout the state; and except as provided in Code Section 43-14-12 43-14-16,
no municipality or county may require such person to comply with any additional licensing
requirements imposed by such municipality or county.

894 (c) This chapter shall not apply to:

(1) The the installation, alteration, or repair of plumbing, air-conditioning and heating,
utility systems, or electrical services, except low-voltage low voltage wiring services, up
to and including the meters where such work is performed by and is an integral part of
the system owned or operated by a public service corporation, an electrical, water, or gas
department of any municipality in this state, a railroad company, a pipeline company, or
a mining company in the exercise of its normal function as such<del>;</del>

| 901 | (2) Low voltage wiring performed by public utilities, except that the portion of the          |
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| 902 | business of public utilities which involves the installation, alteration, repair, or service  |
| 903 | of telecommunication systems for profit shall be covered under this chapter;                  |
| 904 | (3) The installation, construction, or maintenance of power systems or                        |
| 905 | telecommunication systems for the generation or distribution of electric current              |
| 906 | constructed under the National Electrical Safety Code, which regulates the safety             |
| 907 | requirements of utilities; but the interior wiring regulated by the National Electrical       |
| 908 | Safety Code shall not be exempt and must be done by an electrical contractor, except as       |
| 909 | otherwise provided by law;  |
| 910 | (4) Any technician employed by a municipal or county franchised community antenna             |
| 911 | television (CATV) system or a municipally owned CATV system in the performance of             |
| 912 | work on the system;   |
| 913 | (5) Regular full-time employees of an institution, manufacturer, or business who perform      |
| 914 | plumbing, electrical, low voltage wiring, utility contracting, or conditioned air contracting |
| 915 | when working on the premises of their employer;   |
| 916 | (6) A contractor certified by the Department of Public Health to make the connection to       |
| 917 | any on-site waste-water management system from the stub out exiting the structure to an       |
| 918 | on-site waste-water management system;  |
| 919 | (7) Any employee or authorized agent of a regulated gas utility or municipally owned          |
| 920 | gas utility while in the course and scope of such employment; or                              |
| 921 | (8) Persons licensed as manufactured or mobile home installers by the state fire marshal      |
| 922 | when:   |
| 923 | (A) Coupling the electrical connection from the service entrance panel outside the            |
| 924 | manufactured housing to the distribution panel board inside the manufactured housing;         |
| 925 | (B) Connecting the exterior sewer outlets to the aboveground sewer system; or                 |
| 926 | (C) Connecting the exterior water line to the aboveground water system.                       |
| 927 | (d) This chapter shall not prohibit:  |

928 (1) An an individual from installing, altering, or repairing plumbing fixtures,
929 air-conditioning and heating, air-conditioning and heating fixtures, utility systems, or
930 electrical or <del>low-voltage</del> low voltage wiring services in a residential dwelling owned or
931 occupied by such individual; provided, however, that all such work must be done in
932 conformity with all other provisions of this chapter, the rules and regulations of the board,
933 and any applicable county or municipal resolutions, ordinances, codes, or inspection
934 requirements:

935 (e)(2) An This chapter shall not prohibit an individual employed on the maintenance staff
936 of a facility owned by the state or by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision
937 from installing, altering, or repairing plumbing, plumbing fixtures, air-conditioning and
938 heating fixtures, utility systems, or electrical or low-voltage low voltage wiring services
939 when such work is an integral part of the maintenance requirements of the facility;
940 provided, however, that all such work must be done in conformity with all other
941 provisions of this chapter and the orders, rules, and regulations of the board<del>.</del>;

(f)(3) Any This chapter shall not prohibit any person from installing, altering, or 942 943 repairing plumbing, plumbing fixtures, air-conditioning and heating fixtures, utility 944 systems, or electrical or low-voltage low voltage wiring services in a farm or ranch 945 service building or as an integral part of any irrigation system on a farm or ranch when 946 such system is not located within 30 feet of any dwelling or any building devoted to 947 animal husbandry. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the application 948 of any resolution, ordinance, code, or inspection requirements of a county or municipality relating to such connections. 949

950 (4) Any person from installing, altering, or repairing the plumbing component of a lawn
951 sprinkler system from a backflow preventer which was installed by a licensed plumber;
952 provided, however, that all such work must be done in conformity with all other
953 provisions of this chapter, the rules and regulations of the board, and ordinances of the
954 county or municipality; or

| 955 | (5) Any propane dealer that is properly insured as required by law and that holds a            |
|-----|--|
| 956 | liquefied petroleum gas license issued by the Safety Fire Commissioner from installing,        |
| 957 | repairing, or servicing a propane system or the gas piping or components of such system;       |
| 958 | provided, however, that such propane dealers shall be prohibited from performing the           |
| 959 | installation of conditioned air systems or forced air heating systems unless licensed to do    |
| 960 | so under this chapter.   |
| 961 | (g) This chapter shall not apply to low-voltage wiring performed by public utilities, except   |
| 962 | that such portion of the business of those public utilities which involves the installation,   |
| 963 | alteration, repair, or service of telecommunication systems for profit shall be covered under  |
| 964 | this chapter.  |
| 965 | (h) This chapter shall not apply to the installation, construction, or maintenance of power    |
| 966 | systems or telecommunication systems for the generation or distribution of electric current    |
| 967 | constructed under the National Electrical Safety Code, which regulates the safety              |
| 968 | requirements of utilities; but the interior wiring regulated by the National Electrical Safety |
| 969 | Code would not be exempt and must be done by an electrical contractor except as                |
| 970 | otherwise provided by law.   |
| 971 | (i) This chapter shall not apply to any technician employed by a municipal or                  |
| 972 | county-franchised community antenna television (CATV) system or a municipally owned            |
| 973 | community antenna television system in the performance of work on the system.                  |
| 974 | (j) This chapter shall not apply to regular full-time employees of an institution,             |
| 975 | manufacturer, or business who perform plumbing, electrical, low-voltage wiring, utility        |
| 976 | contracting, or conditioned air contracting when working on the premises of that employer.     |
| 977 | (k) This chapter shall not apply to persons licensed as manufactured or mobile home            |
| 978 | installers by the state fire marshal when:   |
| 979 | (1) Coupling the electrical connection from the service entrance panel outside the             |
| 980 | manufactured housing to the distribution panel board inside the manufactured housing;          |
|     |  |

981 (2) Connecting the exterior sewer outlets to the above-ground sewer system; or

- 982 (3) Connecting the exterior water line to the above-ground water system.
- 983 (<u>h)(e)</u> Any person qualified by the Department of Transportation to perform work for the
   984 department shall not be required to be licensed under:
- 985 (1) Code Section 43-14-8.2 43-14-10 or certified under Code Sections 43-14-8.3
  986 43-14-11 and 43-14-8.4 43-14-12 in order to perform work for the department. Any
  987 person qualified by the Department of Transportation to perform work for the department
  988 shall not be required to be licensed under; or
- 989 (2) Code Section 43-14-8.2 43-14-10 or certified under Code Sections 43-14-8.3
- 990 <u>43-14-11</u> and <u>43-14-8.4</u> <u>43-14-12</u> in order to perform work for a county, municipality, 991 authority, or other political subdivision when such work is of the same nature as that for 992 which the person is qualified when performing department work; provided, however, that 993 such work is not performed on a utility system as defined in paragraph (17) (23) of Code 994 Section 43-14-2 for which the person receives compensation.
- (m) This chapter shall not prohibit any person from installing, altering, or repairing the
  plumbing component of a lawn sprinkler system from a backflow preventer which was
  installed by a licensed plumber; provided, however, that all such work must be done in
  conformity with all other provisions of this chapter, the rules and regulations of the board,
  and ordinances of the county or municipality.
- 1000 (n)(f) Any person who contracts with a licensed conditioned air contractor:
- (1) As as part of a conditioned air contract to install, alter, or repair duct systems, control
   systems, or insulation is not required to hold a license from the Division of Conditioned
   Air Contractors. The conditioned air contractor must retain responsibility for completion
- 1004 of the contract, including any subcontracted work-;
- 1005 (2) To Any person who contracts with a licensed conditioned air contractor to perform
- 1006 a complete installation, alteration, or repair of a conditioned air system must hold a valid
- 1007 license from the Division of Conditioned Air Contractors<del>.;</del> or

1008 (3) To Any person who contracts to perform for or on behalf of a conditioned air
 1009 contractor to install, alter, or repair electrical, low-voltage the installation, alteration, or
 1010 repair of the electrical, low voltage, or plumbing components of a conditioned air system
 1011 must hold a valid license from the appropriate division of the board.

(o) This chapter shall not prohibit any propane dealer who is properly insured as required
by law and who holds a liquefied petroleum gas license issued by the Safety Fire
Commissioner from installing, repairing, or servicing a propane system or the gas piping
or components of such system; provided, however, that such propane dealers shall be
prohibited from performing the installation of conditioned air systems or forced air heating
systems unless licensed to do so under this chapter.

(p) This chapter shall not apply to any employee or authorized agent of a regulated gas 1018 1019 utility or municipal owned gas utility while in the course and scope of such employment. 1020 (q)(g) Any utility contractor holding a valid utility contractor's license under this chapter 1021 shall be authorized to bid for and perform work on any utility system in this state without obtaining a license under Chapter 41 of this title. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a 1022 1023 utility system or anyone soliciting work to be performed on a utility system to refuse to 1024 allow a utility contractor holding a valid utility contractor's license under this chapter to bid 1025 for or perform work on a utility system on the basis that such contractor does not hold a 1026 license under Chapter 41 of this title.

1027 <u>43-14-14</u> <u>43-14-20</u>.

1028 Any person violating this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction

- 1029 thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 \$3,000.00 or imprisoned for not more than
- 1030 six months, or both.

1031 <u>43-14-15</u> <u>43-14-21</u>.

1032 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

1033 (1) 'Discharge' means an honorable discharge or a general discharge from active military
1034 service. Such term shall not mean a discharge under other than honorable conditions, a
1035 bad conduct discharge, or a dishonorable discharge.

(2) 'Military' means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of thearmed forces of the United States, including the National Guard.

(b) A committee composed of the division director, members of the Governor's Office of
Workforce Development, and members of the relevant divisions of the licensing board
representing the profession for which the applicant is seeking a license shall determine the
military specialties or certifications the training or experience for which substantially meets
or exceeds the requirements to obtain a license for Electrical Contractor Class I,
Journeyman Plumber, Conditioned Air Contractor Class I, or Utility Foreman. The
Governor shall designate a chairperson from among the members of the committee.

1045 (c) Any current or former member of the military may apply to the licensing board for the 1046 immediate <u>expedited</u> issuance of a license or certification based upon his or her having 1047 obtained a military specialty or certification, the training or experience for which 1048 substantially meets or exceeds the requirements to obtain a license or certification 1049 identified in subsection (b) of this Code section.

(d) In order to qualify under this subsection, an applicant shall make application not later
than two years after his or her discharge. The licensing board, in its discretion, may by rule
or regulation extend such two-year period for a license or certification, or class thereof, or
may extend such two-year period for an individual applicant if certain circumstances,
including, but not limited to, health, hospitalization, or other related emergencies or
exigencies, prevented the member of the military from making an application.

1056 (e) Such application shall be in such form and shall require such documentation as the 1057 division director shall determine. If the applicant satisfies the requirements of this Code 1058 section, the division director shall direct the appropriate division to issue the appropriate 1059 license, and the division shall immediately issue such license; provided, however, that the 1060 applicant shall satisfy all financial and insurance requirements for the issuance of such

1061 license. This Code section shall only apply to the initial issuance of a license. After the

1062 initial issuance of a license, the licensee shall be subject to any provisions relating to the

1063 renewal of the license applicable to all licensees.

1064 <u>43-14-22.</u>

1065 The board may establish a process through rules and regulations for licenses issued under

1066 this chapter to be placed on inactive status and the qualifications necessary for such

1067 licenses to be returned to active status; provided, however, that engaging in any conduct

- 1068 that requires a license under this chapter while holding an inactive license shall be
- 1069 <u>considered an unlicensed practice and shall be prohibited.</u>"
- 1070

1071

# PART II

# SECTION 2-1.

1072 Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to buildings and housing, is 1073 amended in:

(1) Code Section 8-2-26, relating to enforcement of codes generally, employment and
training of inspectors, and contracts for administration and enforcement of codes, in
subparagraph (d)(2)(D), by replacing "paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section
43-14-12" with "paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 43-14-16".
(2) Code Section 8-2-102, relating to inspections, in subsection (e), by replacing

1078 (2) Code Section 8-2-102, relating to inspections, in subsection (e), by replacin 1079 "43-14-8.1" with "43-14-9".

1080

## **SECTION 2-2.**

1081 Title 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to commerce and trade, is 1082 amended in: (1) Code Section 10-5B-3, relating to rules to prohibit deceptive, fraudulent, or abusive
telemarketing activities authorized, in subsection (a), by replacing "low-voltage" with "low
voltage".

1086 (2) Code Section 10-5B-4, relating to required and prohibited telephone conduct and

1087 activities and liability, in subsection (a), by replacing "low-voltage" with "low voltage".

1088 (3) Code Section 10-5B-5, relating to applicability to persons subject to other provisions

1089 of the Code, in subsection (c), by replacing "low-voltage" with "low voltage".

1090 (4) Code Section 10-5B-7, relating to remedies, duties, prohibitions, and penalties not

1091 exclusive and construction with other provisions of the Code, in subsection (b), by

1092 replacing "low-voltage" with "low voltage".

# 1093

#### SECTION 2-3.

1094 Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, is amended
1095 in Code Section 36-60-12.1, relating to fence detection systems, definition, and utilization,
1096 by revising paragraph (b)(1) as follows:

1097 "(1) Treat fence detection systems in all zoning and permitting matters exclusively as
1098 alarm systems as such term is defined in paragraph (.1) of Code Section 43-14-2; and"

1099

#### **SECTION 2-4.**

1100 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses, 1101 is amended in Code Section 43-41-17, relating to effective date of licensing and sanctioning 1102 provisions, unenforceable contracts, compliance with county or municipal requirements, 1103 exemption for DOT contractors, and other exceptions, in subsection (e), by replacing 1104 "low-voltage" with "low voltage".

| 1105 | SECTION 2-5.  |
|------|---|
| 1106 | Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public   |
| 1107 | transportation, is amended in:  |
| 1108 | (1) Code Section 46-3-30, relating to short title, by replacing "High-voltage" with "High     |
| 1109 | Voltage".   |
| 1110 | (2) Code Section 46-3-31, relating to purpose of part, by replacing "high-voltage" with       |
| 1111 | "high voltage".   |
| 1112 | (3) Code Section 46-3-32, relating to definitions, in paragraph (1), by replacing             |
| 1113 | "High-voltage" with "High voltage" and in paragraphs (5) and (6), by replacing                |
| 1114 | "high-voltage" with "high voltage".   |
| 1115 | (4) Code Section 46-3-33, relating to required conditions for commencing work within ten      |
| 1116 | feet of high-voltage line, in the introductory language and in paragraph (2), by replacing    |
| 1117 | "high-voltage" with "high voltage".   |
| 1118 | (5) Code Section 46-3-34, relating to utilities protection center, funding of activities,     |
| 1119 | notice of work, delay, and responsibility for completing safety requirements, by replacing    |
| 1120 | "high-voltage" with "high voltage" each time the term appears.                                |
| 1121 | (6) Code Section 46-3-35, relating to allocation of expense of precautionary measures         |
| 1122 | taken pursuant to public highway construction, by replacing "high-voltage" with "high         |
| 1123 | voltage".   |
| 1124 | (7) Code Section 46-3-37, relating to applicability of part to railway systems and electrical |
| 1125 | engineering system or other entities, in subsection (b), by replacing "high-voltage" with     |
| 1126 | "high voltage" both times the term appears.   |
| 1127 | (8) Code Section 46-3-39, relating to restriction on liability of owners and operators of     |
| 1128 | high-voltage lines and effect of part on duty or degree of care, by replacing "high-voltage"  |
| 1129 | with "high voltage" each time the term appears.   |
|      |   |

- 1130 (9) Code Section 46-3-40, relating to criminal penalty, strict liability for injury or damage,
- 1131 indemnification, and liability for cost of delay, by replacing "high-voltage" with "high
- 1132 voltage" each time the term appears.
- 1133 **PART III**
- 1134 SECTION 3-1.
- 1135 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
- 1136 without such approval.

# 1137 SECTION 3-2.

1138 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.