



To: Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly

From: Jeffrey J. Beiriger, CAE
Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors – Wisconsin Association

Re: AB 397 - Definition of “Plumbing”

Date: Assembly Calendar Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Rep. Soletski and a bipartisan group of legislators introduced AB 397 at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Plumbing Code Advisory Council. The Council meets regularly with the Department to review plumbing issues and to advise the Department on code and industry practices.

The Council recommended that the underlying statute (Chapter 145) which relates to plumbing and the plumbing code be updated to address recent developments in the industry – specifically, the development of water reuse systems. AB 397 does *not* expand the scope of work done by plumbers nor does it affect the work of other regulated/skilled trades.

AB 397 has broad support. The bill was the subject of a hearing in the Assembly Labor Committee on October 14 and there was no testimony in opposition. AB 397 was approved by the Assembly Labor Committee on a 9-0 vote during an Executive Session held October 20. In addition, the legislation has the support of licensed plumbers and plumbing contractors, as both Plumbers Local 75 (labor) and our Association (management) are supporting the bill. The bill also has the support of the Department of Commerce.

We encourage you to vote in favor of AB 397 when it is considered by the Assembly on Tuesday, October 27th.

Please feel free to call me with any questions at (414) 331-2059, or email me at Beiriger@cf-law.com. As always, thank you for your consideration.