

## CONTRACTOR LICENSE CATEGORY PREEMPTION

The Florida Legislature approved House Bill HB735, which preempts local occupational licenses to the State, effective July 1, 2021. HB735 provides that occupational contractor's licenses issued by local jurisdictions, (Counties) including those related to construction-related occupations, will be prohibited after July 1, 2023.

A jurisdiction having construction-related licensing requirements before January 1, 2021, can continue to license construction-related occupations until July 1, 2023; however, such licensing requirements cannot be modified and no additional requirements can be added.

Therefore, between now and June 30, 2023, applicants seeking a new license or renewal for those construction-related specialty licenses will be issued a license or have their prior license renewed with an expiration date of July 1, 2023. Accordingly, the license fee will be prorated to cover only the licensure period between the date of issuance or renewal and the statutory July 1, 2023, expiration date.

Further, any permit pulled with these licenses must be closed before June 30, 2023.

### AFFECTED LICENSES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Caulking                               | Master Refrigeration Limited                         |
| Canvas Awning                          | Master Refrigeration Unlimited                       |
| Concrete Finishing                     | Master Room Air Conditioning                         |
| Concrete Forming and Placing           | Master Steam Generator Boiler and Piping             |
| Concrete Slab Sawing and Core Drilling | Master Transporting Assembly Install                 |
| Decorative Concrete & Masonry Fence    | Master Transporting Assembly Maintenance and Service |
| Door                                   | Master Warm Air Heating                              |
| Fence                                  | Metal Awning & Storm Shutter                         |
| Finish Carpentry                       | Metal Decking & Siding                               |
| Flagpole                               | Metal Partition                                      |
| Flooring                               | Miscellaneous Metals                                 |
| Garage and Industrial Door             | Ornamental Iron                                      |
| Gypsum Drywall Installer               | Painting   |
| Gypsum Drywall Finisher                | Pneumatic Concrete & Pressure Grouting               |
| Insulation and Acoustical Tile         | Pre-stressed Pre-cast Concrete Erection              |
| Lathing and Plastering                 | Reinforcing Steel Placing                            |
| Limited Residential Repair             | Roof Deck  |
| Master Electrical Utility              | Screen Enclosure                                     |
| Master TV Antenna                      | Sheet Metal Gutter & Downspout                       |
| Master Portable Chemical Toilets       | Shower and Tub Enclosure                             |
| Master Ammonia Refrigeration           | Sign – Non-Electric                                  |
| Master Gasoline Tank and Pump          | Structural Steel Erection                            |
| Master Heating                         | Tennis Courts Surfacing                              |
| Master Insulation                      | Unit Masonry, Ext. Veneer                            |
| Master Pneumatic Control Piping        | Waterproofing  |
| Pneumatic Tube Conveyor                |  |
| Master Pressure & Process Piping       |  |
| Master Refrigeration & Air Condition   |  |

## CATEGORIES NOT AFFECTED BY HB 735

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Contractor     |                                     |
| Building Contractor    |                                     |
| Residential Contractor | Master Low Voltage                  |
| Communication Tower    | Master Sign Electrician             |
| Demolition             | Master Plumber                      |
| Drywall                | Lawn Sprinkler                      |
| Glass and Glazing      | Master Pool Maintenance (limited)   |
| Roof                   | Master Pool Maintenance (unlimited) |
| Master Electrician     | Master Air Conditioning Limited     |
| Master Burglar Alarm   | Master Air Conditioning Unlimited   |
| Master Fire Alarm      | Master General Mechanical           |
|                        | Master Sheet Metal                  |

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. If my license category is being eliminated on July 1, 2023, am I required to obtain another license to perform the same scope of work?**
  - You will only need to obtain another license if the scope of work requires a building permit.
- 2. Are there any other options for licensing and where can I find information?**
  - Yes. The county and the state continue to require and issue contractor licenses for specific work. More information can be found on the state's website and the county's website.
- 3. Will license renewals be prorated and how?**
  - Yes. Renewal fees in September 2022 will be prorated for the nine months the license will be in effect.
- 4. After July 1, 2023, will you need a contractor's license to obtain a permit?**
  - Yes. You will need to be licensed by a County or the State of Florida in a category that can obtain the specific permit.
- 5. Does this change mean that specialty licenses will no longer exist after July 2023? If that is the case, will all specialty contractors go out of business?**
  - No. There will still be a limited amount of building specialty licenses issued by the county and the state. View the attached list of remaining specialty licenses.

6. **Will permits be needed for work in these categories after July 2023?**
  - Yes, if the scope of work requires a building permit. HB735 does not affect current building permit requirements. Check with the Building Department where the permit is being obtained for more specific requirements.
  
7. **What is the difference between being licensed or registered with the State?**
  - **License by the state** means the state approved and issued a license and no further licensing is required by the County. **Registered** means you have a county-issued license that you must register with the state if the county license is substantially equal to the scope of work of a license required by the state as defined in 489.105(3)(a)-(o) and (q) or authorized in s. 489.1455(1).
  
8. **Whom do I contact to register with the State?**
  - You must contact the Department of Business and Professional Regulation online or call 850-487-1395.
  
9. **What happens if my permit does not obtain a final inspection approval and expires after July 1, 2023?**
  - The permit must be reissued and can only be reissued to licensed contractors. Check with the Building Department where the permit was obtained for more specific requirements.
  
10. **How do I know which Building Department require permits for projects using affected specialty licenses and which do not?**
  - You must contact the Building Department where the work is being performed for their permit requirements.