

HOUSE LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 652

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PEACE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE;
ENACTING THE EMERGENCY GAS PILOT RELIGHTING ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited at the
"Emergency Gas Pilot Relighting Act".

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Emergency Gas
Pilot Relighting Act:

A. "gas pilot relighting technician" means an
individual who has successfully completed a program pursuant to
Section 3 of the Emergency Gas Pilot Relighting Act;

B. "natural gas" means any combustible vapor
composed chiefly of hydrocarbons occurring naturally; and

C. "program" means a program for training and
certifying persons to relight pilot lights for residential

1 equipment and appliances pursuant to Section 3 of the Emergency
2 Gas Pilot Relighting Act.

3 SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.--The higher education
4 department and the regulation and licensing department shall
5 recommend to appropriate institutions of higher learning a
6 program for training and certifying individuals to relight
7 pilot lights for residential equipment and appliances. Upon
8 satisfactory completion of such a program, an individual shall
9 be certified as a gas pilot relighting technician and be issued
10 a certificate attesting to the person's completion of the
11 program, which certificate shall expire after five years. The
12 regulation and licensing department shall adopt rules
13 specifying the content of the training program, requirements
14 for successful completion of the program and the process for
15 certification of an individual as a gas pilot relighting
16 technician.

17 SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY OR DISASTER--
18 EMPLOYMENT OF GAS PILOT RELIGHTING TECHNICIANS--
19 REIMBURSEMENT.--

20 A. Upon a declaration by the governor of an
21 emergency or disaster, a person certified as a journeyman
22 plumber or journeyman gas fitter pursuant to the Construction
23 Industries Licensing Act may employ no more than five gas pilot
24 relighting technicians during the period of the declared
25 emergency or disaster.

.186161.1

1 B. A gas pilot relighting technician employed by a
2 journeyman plumber or journeyman gas fitter pursuant to
3 Subsection A of this section shall be an employee of the
4 journeyman plumber or journeyman gas fitter and shall be
5 covered by liability insurance provided by the journeyman
6 plumber or journeyman gas fitter.

7 C. The duties of a gas pilot relighting technician
8 employed by a journeyman plumber or journeyman gas fitter
9 pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall be limited to
10 work directly related to the relighting of pilot lights for
11 residential equipment and appliances serving residences with
12 not more than four dwelling units.

13 D. If authorized in the declaration of emergency or
14 disaster issued by the governor and subject to funds being made
15 available pursuant to such a declaration, the secretary of
16 homeland security and emergency management may adopt rules
17 permitting state funds to be used to pay the cost of journeyman
18 plumbers, journeyman gas fitters or gas pilot relighting
19 technicians for services rendered during the declared period of
20 the emergency or disaster to restore natural gas service to
21 residences within the area covered by the declaration of
22 emergency or disaster.