



OFFICE OF

No. SB 591

**THE GOVERNOR**  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 6, 20 15

TIME SIGNED:

4:50pm

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA SENATE  
FIRST SESSION OF THE  
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 591:

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED Senate Bill 591.

Senate Bill 591 (Bill) makes it illegal for anyone to “act as, or perform the work of” a mechanical or plumber’s apprentice without first registering with the Construction Industries Board (CIB). The Bill also makes it unlawful for any employer to hire a mechanical or plumber’s apprentice until that apprentice is registered, and regulated, by the CIB.

This Bill is unnecessary, and—if enacted—would bring about many of the detrimental consequences characteristic of regulatory overreach. Current law already provides a mechanism through which an individual who is at least sixteen years old, and who is enrolled in a specialized training program or who is working for a licensee, may register with the State as a mechanical or plumber’s apprentice. As it stands now, such registration must be renewed annually; is subject to several different initial and recurring fees; and carries with it professional responsibilities that, if violated, are subject to CIB disciplinary action. Accordingly, Oklahoma law already has in place a strong regulatory framework that seeks to balance consumer protection with encouraging individuals, and especially youth, in becoming skilled tradesmen.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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This Bill significantly expands the current regulatory framework. Fairly interpreted, SB 591—perhaps inadvertently—prohibits people from assisting others in repair work, even if such work is performed within a friend or relative’s personal residence, or done under the direction of a licensed family member. It shuts the door on youth who are interested in becoming plumbers or mechanical tradesmen, but who want to gain real-world familiarity with the trade before committing themselves to more formalized instruction. It has no carve-outs or common-sense exemptions.

Oklahoma must encourage—not restrict—expanded workforce development and the attainment of viable trade skills. This Bill, perhaps unintentionally, does the opposite, by standing for the proposition that there is no place in the skilled trades for anyone unregulated by the State, regardless of whether the work at hand relates to a weekend hobby, a part-time or summer job, or a favor extended to a friend or family member.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Becky White

Date/Time May 6, 2015 5:25pm

**RECEIVED**

MAY 06 2015

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF STATE