



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Nicholas A. Keller

Am. H.B. 12

130th General Assembly
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Roegner, Young, Butler, Terhar, Stebelton, Lynch, McGregor, Gonzales, Thompson, Hood, Scherer, J. Adams, Baker, Beck, Becker, Boose, Buchy, Burkley, Conditt, Damschroder, Duffey, Green, Hackett, C. Hagan, Hall, Henne, Landis, Maag, Perales, Retherford, Ruhl, Wachtmann, Batchelder

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Board of Building Standards to adopt rules to prescribe the conditions and requirements for an automatically operated boiler directly fired with gas, oil, gas-oil, or electricity or for a stationary steam engine that would allow an owner to operate a low pressure steam boiler, power boiler, or stationary steam engine without the presence of a licensee under the Boiler Law.
- Eliminates the current law requirement that the Board establish reasonable fees concerning reviews for certification by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Operation of certain boilers without a license

The bill requires the Board of Building Standards (which is responsible for adopting the Ohio Boiler Code) to adopt rules that prescribe the conditions and requirements for design, certification, reporting, installation, operation, and periodic testing and maintenance of controls and safety devices on an automatically operated boiler directly fired with gas, oil, gas-oil, or electricity, or a stationary steam engine, that would allow an owner to operate a low pressure steam boiler, power boiler, or stationary steam engine without the presence of a licensed low pressure boiler operator, a licensed high pressure boiler operator, or a licensed steam engineer as required in continuing law.¹

¹ R.C. 4104.02(A)(4).

Thus, under the bill, a low pressure steam boiler or power boiler that has more than 360 square feet of heating surface (expressed as 30 horsepower under current law) may be operated, or a stationary steam engine may be operated at more than 30 horsepower, by an individual not licensed under the Boiler Law if the requirements specified in the rules adopted by the Board under the bill are satisfied.²

Current law prohibits any person from operating a low pressure boiler (see "**Definitions**," below) at more than 30 horsepower, unless the person either is licensed as a steam engineer, high pressure boiler operator, or low pressure boiler operator in accordance with the Boiler Law or is working under the direct supervision of such a licensee. Similarly, current law prohibits any person from operating a power boiler (see "**Definitions**," below) at more than 30 horsepower unless that person is licensed as a steam engineer or high pressure boiler operator or the person is working under the direct supervision of such a licensee. Current law also prohibits any person from operating a stationary steam engine (see "**Definitions**," below) at more than 30 horsepower unless that person is licensed as a steam engineer or is working under the direct supervision of such a licensee.³

A boiler or stationary steam engine owner who satisfies the requirements of the licensed operator exemption under the bill also is exempt from the requirement in a rule adopted by the Board. That rule requires, unless an exception applies, a steam engineer, high pressure boiler operator, or low pressure boiler operator to maintain continuous, manned attendance during all times of operation of a steam boiler or stationary steam engine operating at more than 30 horsepower. Currently, this requirement does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

- The steam boiler or stationary steam engine can be monitored, controlled, and shut down from a central control room and is equipped with manual operational resets, thus allowing the continuous, manned attendance to occur from the central control room during all times of operation of the steam boiler.
- The steam boiler may be operated without manned attendance for a maximum length of time equal to the time it takes for the boiler to go into a low water condition when subjected to an annual evaporation test conducted in accordance with the "ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VI, 7.05 (H)."

² R.C. 4104.05.

³ R.C. 4104.05.



- The Superintendent of Industrial Compliance approves a site-specific, detailed, written plan to provide for automated electronic monitoring of nonsolid fuel-fired steam boilers or stationary steam engines that utilize controls that contain all operational functions, are equipped with manual operational resets, are labeled for the intended operation, and satisfy additional requirements specified in the rule.⁴

The bill eliminates the current law requirement that the Board establish reasonable fees for the performance of reviews, surveys, or audits of manufacturer's facilities by the Division of Industrial Compliance for certification by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.⁵

Definitions

Continuing law defines the following terms:

A "low pressure boiler" is a steam boiler operating at pressures not exceeding 15 pounds per square inch gauge (psig), or a hot water heating boiler operating at pressures not exceeding 160 psig or temperatures not exceeding 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

A "power boiler" is a boiler in which steam or other vapor (to be used externally to itself) is generated at a pressure of more than 15 psig.

A "stationary steam engine" is an engine or turbine in which the mechanical force arising from the elasticity and expansion action of steam or from its property of rapid condensation or from a combination of the two is made available as a motive power.⁶

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|---|----------|
| Introduced | 01-30-13 |
| Reported, H. Commerce, Labor & Technology | 03-19-13 |
| Passed House (84-9) | 03-20-13 |

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⁴ Ohio Administrative Code 4101:4-10-01.

⁵ R.C. 4104.02(D).

⁶ R.C. 4104.01, not in the bill.

