

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 prior to 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 prior to 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 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 of 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 requirements that are more specific.
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.