

SENATE No. 173

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barry R. Finegold

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish licensing standards for drain cleaners.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>

SENATE No. 173

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 173) of Barry R. Finegold and Tackey Chan for legislation to establish licensing standards for drain cleaners. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 330 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to establish licensing standards for drain cleaners.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 142 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 inserting after the definition of “Certificate of a gas fitting corporation or certificate of a gas
3 fitting partnership” the following 2 definitions:-

4 “Drain cleaner”, a person who himself does any work in drain cleaning as certified under
5 section 3C.

6 “Drain cleaning”, the removing of stoppages or obstructions in a plumbing drainage
7 system.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 142 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 3B the
9 following new section:-

10 Section 3C. No drain cleaner shall engage in the practice of drain cleaning without
11 completing the necessary education requirements and being certified by the board. A drain
12 cleaner shall demonstrate that he or she has completed at least 100 hours of drain cleaning work
13 under the supervision of an existing drain cleaning business incorporated with the state prior to
14 January 1, 2025, or a licensed plumber. Drain cleaners shall limit their drain cleaning work to
15 pipes connected to fixtures inside a structure, which shall include, but not be limited to sinks,
16 bathtubs, toilets, cleanouts with a removable plug or cap, and removable fixture traps. Drain
17 cleaners shall not install, destroy or cut any pipes. The fee for certification shall not be more than
18 fifty dollars every two years to be paid at the time of certification renewal.