



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

In compliance with the requirements of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80), the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) has undertaken a study of the Illinois Department of Public Health's administration of section 2.5 of the Illinois Plumbing Licensing Law (225 ILCS 320/2.5) (the Law) as it applies to irrigation contractors and lawn sprinkler systems. GOMB has provided my office with a copy of the study and its recommendations regarding whether the Law should be terminated, modified, or continued. I have reviewed GOMB's submission and offer the following comments and recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

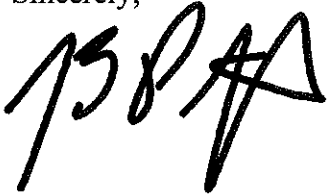
The Plumbing Licensing Law governs the regulation of lawn sprinkler irrigation systems in the State of Illinois. The absence of regulation of lawn sprinkler irrigation systems would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would negatively impact the ethical standards that protect consumers and the services for lawn sprinkler irrigation they desire. Improper installation and operation of lawn sprinkler irrigation systems can cause the contamination of public water supplies and/or building water supplies and can result in disease. Water pooling around sprinkler heads may be contaminated by chemicals, fertilizers, or animal waste. If the connection to the potable water supply is not protected by proper backflow devices, irrigation systems may allow contamination of potable water systems by introducing hazardous chemicals, such as pesticides and fertilizers, harmful organisms such as nematodes, e. coli, giardia, or legionella or other sediment and debris into the systems. Lawn sprinkler systems may also include pumps or elevated tanks. These devices may result in the contamination of potable water distribution system through backflow or backsiphonage whenever the pressure on the public water distribution system is less than the pressure on the irrigation system, unless that potable system is protected by a suitable backflow preventer. Therefore, the health and safety of the public is put at risk without proper regulation of irrigation contractors and lawn sprinkler systems.

The absence of regulation of this industry would pose a significant and direct harm to the welfare of the public. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the state regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Law is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Plumbing License Law should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public and doing so does not place an undue burden on the licensees or commerce.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget's report is provided for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB Pritzker', with a stylized, looped 'P' and a sharp, angular 'K'.

Governor JB Pritzker