

# **Governor's Office of Management and Budget**

Alexis Sturm

Director



## **Regulatory Sunset Act Study of**

## **The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulation Act**

May 8, 2026

**To the Honorable JB Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois**

Governor Pritzker:

As required by Section 5 of the Regulatory Sunset Act (5 ILCS 80/1 et seq.), GOMB facilitated a study with the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), the agency responsible for oversight of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulation Act (225 ILCS 203) (the Act), which is scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2027. This study provides justification for the recommendation to continue this Act.

GOMB's examination of this Act was conducted considering the factors set out in Sections 6 and 7 of the Regulatory Sunset Act. The following report outlines the work of GOMB's study and details the criteria and data utilized to arrive at the above recommendation.

Respectfully,

Alexis Sturm  
Director  
Governor's Office of Management and Budget

## **GOMB Regulatory Sunset Act Report: Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulation Act**

The State of Illinois, acting through the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), licenses the profession of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairers, the entities performing repairs and alterations by welding boilers and pressure vessels, pursuant to the Act. Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer mean an organization performing any welding on boilers and pressure vessels that affect pressure retaining boundaries and includes, but is not limited to, repairs and alterations as defined in 41 Ill. Adm. Code 2120. However, an organization that performs welding to its own equipment and is authorized pursuant to 41 Ill. Adm. Code 2120.1010 is not required to have a license.

The industry calls an entity or organization that repairs boilers and pressure vessels a “repairer organization.” Each ‘repairer’ organization is required to have a quality control manual which details the scope of work on the Certificate of Authorization. It will list authorizations for repairs, alterations, or repairs and alterations. Additionally, it states the type boilers and/or pressure vessels, per section(s) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code of Construction. Repairer organizations are reviewed for compliance and recertification triennially.

Each licensee must meet the requirements found in 41 Ill. Admin. Code 2121, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulations. By doing so, the licensee demonstrates the acceptable methods and controls to properly perform the repairs or alterations by welding to the pressure retaining boundaries of boilers and pressure vessels.

### **1. License Count and Fee Structure (5 ILCS 80/6(1) and (3))**

As of July 31, 2025, OSFM states that there are 148 currently active licenses for repairer organizations in Illinois. See the following table for the number of licenses issued by OSFM in the fiscal years indicated:

<b>License, Credential, Certification Type</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>
Licensed Repairer Organizations (New & Renewals Processed)	53	48	71	67	51

Licensed repairer organizations have the following licensure fee structure:

<b>License, Credential, or Certification Type</b>	<b>Fee Amount</b>	<b>Online Payment Option</b>
Licensing Fee (New)	\$300.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Licensing Fee (Triennial Renewal)	\$150.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Renewed License (3 Months or less)	\$75.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reinstatement Licensing Fee	\$100.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Duplicate License Fee	\$0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Change of Address License Fee	\$50.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **2. Obtaining Certification in Illinois (5 ILCS 80/6(11))**

Licensure is required by 225 ILCS 203/35. Standards for licensure are set by Rule at 41 Ill. Admin. Code

2121.30. This requires applicants hold a R-Certificate of Authorization issued by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NBBI). Established in 1919, NBBI located at 1055 Crupper Ave., Columbus, OH 43229. Their website is: <https://www.nationalboard.org/index.aspx?pageID=115&ID=160>

The applicant must be a business. The applicant must hold a valid Certificate of Authorization to use the "R" Repair Symbol Stamp issued by the NBBI and provide documentation of insurance and the business. The OSFM's Chief Inspector performs the accreditation review for the Certificate of Authorization, which includes a paperwork review and demonstration of alteration or repair by welding of a boiler or pressure vessel. The Chief Inspector provides the assessment to the NBBI. The application with documentation would be submitted (online or paper) to OSFM. The application can be found at: <https://sfm.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/sfm/sfmdocuments/documents/applicationforbpvrepairlicense.pdf>

The State of Illinois has three qualified Review Team Leaders (RTL), including the Chief Inspector, who performs the required reviews for the R-Certificate of Authorization. Organizations outside Illinois must meet the same standards including a review by a qualified RTL who performs an accreditation review for R-Certificate of Authorization. If the organization is in Illinois, the application is forwarded directly to the Chief Inspector. This gives Illinois businesses seeking licensure a direct relationship with OSFM's Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety.

### **3. Equity Concerns (5 ILCS 80/6(10), (12) and (13))**

OSFM states that equity issues may have an impact on individuals seeking to obtain this business license in the State of Illinois. These issues include financial challenges such as the cost to obtain licensure and the failure to complete licensure due to access to training, education, and geographic location of training and testing sites.

Persons who speak English as a second language may also have difficulty with the licensure process. OSFM asserts that it has done its best to minimize any barriers to licensure by requiring universally accepted qualification requirements established by NBBI and imposing fair standards of professionalism.

### **4. Agency recommendations to change the statute (5 ILCS 80/6(4) and (9))**

OSFM does not have amendatory recommendations for this Act. The Office is continuously monitoring the impact the current statutory language has on practitioners, while closely observing what changes can be made to better benefit the public.

### **5. Agency efforts to comply with enabling laws (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (4) and (5))**

At the time of this study, GOMB is not aware of any compliance issues by OSFM related to the provisions of the Act.

### **6. Recent bills introduced by the General Assembly (5 ILCS 80/6(9))**

According to OSFM, there have been no statutory changes recently introduced by the General Assembly.

### **7. Stakeholder Feedback and Protocols for Licensure (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7), (8), (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)**

The Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules' composition and general responsibilities are established under 430 ILCS 75/2. The Board's role with this program is further established under 225 ILCS 203. Among other things, the Board promulgates rules for the program (225 ILCS 203/25) which the OSFM administers, sets standards for licensure (225 ILCS 203/35), and may make decisions on disciplinary charges brought by the agency (225 ILCS 203/75).

The board conducts open meetings quarterly. The public is welcome to ask questions and participate. The board can also contact the Chief Inspector to have a topic of discussion added to their agenda.

OSFM has not received any comments on its Part 2121 rulemakings as filed with the IL SOS and JCAR in the past. During rulemaking, OSFM posts information on its website to increase public awareness.

#### **8. Public Outreach (5 ILCS 80/6(5), (6), (7) and (8) and 5 ILCS 80/7)**

OSFM provides multiple ways for the public to contact the Office with comments or concerns about the programs it oversees or the rules governing its programs. Administrative rules are adopted through the process established by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). This process allows for input from licensees impacted by the proposed changes, as well as participation by members of the public. Additionally, stakeholders frequently attend the quarterly board meetings.

Feedback, if any, occurs at the quarterly meetings of the Board of Boiler and Pressure Rules and has been consistently positive. All feedback is considered by the board.

#### **9. Industry Standards (5 ILCS 80/6(11) and (12))**

OSFM states that the Illinois personal qualifications for this business license as required for this profession are in line with industry standards. The minimal national standards are a valid Certificate of Authorization to use the "R" Repair Symbol Stamp issued by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

The regulated licensees are mandated to perform all repairs and alterations to the original ASME Code (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) of construction and the current National Boiler Inspection Code (NBIC). The NBIC is updated every two years on July 1 and becomes effective on the following January 1st. Licensees adapt to the newest code consistent practices with each new edition (approximately every two years).

Surrounding states have similar minimum requirements per national standards. Many repairer organizations licensed in Illinois also hold licenses in other states to perform the welded repairs or alterations to boilers and pressure vessels. The City of Chicago, its own Jurisdiction pursuant to the related Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act (430 ILCS 75), requires that Illinois Licensed Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairers (the licensees under this program) are the only organizations allowed to perform welded repairs. Some states have additional repair permitting fees and require annual license renewal as compared to 3-year renewal in Illinois.

#### **10. Public Complaint Resolution (5 ILCS 80/6(3), (7), (8) and (10) and 5 ILCS 80/7)**

OSFM has received no complaints from the public regarding licensed repairer organizations over the past five fiscal years. The Office has also received no complaints from licensed repairer organizations.

The Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety is responsible for resolving complaints regarding OSFM's regulation of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulation Act. The average time for resolution of a complaint is unknown as none have been received, but OSFM believes complaints could be resolved quickly.

The table below outlines the number of complaints received by the Department in the last five years.

Complaints	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Licensed Repairer Organizations	0	0	0	0	0

#### **11. Disciplinary Action (5 ILCS 80/6(14))**

OSFM's authority to enforce the Act ensures that allegations of professional incompetence, gross negligence, malpractice, and unprofessional conduct are investigated and that substantiated allegations are prosecuted by the Office for appropriate discipline.

The statute provides for disciplinary action. See 225 ILCS 203/80. The sanctions range from probationary status with requirements to revocation of license.

#### **12. Conclusion**

The Act governs the licensure of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairers in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensing criteria for these repairers would pose a significant and direct harm to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Under the Boiler Safety Act (430 ILCS 75), administered by OSFM, boilers and pressure vessels must be constructed and maintained to the standard of their original construction. The regulation of those entities performing the repair and alteration of boilers and pressure vessels maintains the integrity of those objects which, by their nature, could create danger to public in the vicinity when compromised. With this regulation, those who work on the boiler or pressure vessel have demonstrated capability to safely repair or alter the boiler or pressure vessel by welding, keeping the public safe from situations like leaks (carbon monoxide poisoning), steam-inflicted burns, ruptures, and explosions.

Improperly performed work could cause catastrophic boiler or pressure vessel failure resulting in property damage, injury, and possible death. The Act is designed to ensure that the work performed in Illinois meets the standards mandated by the codes affecting boilers and pressure vessels and by meeting those standards, assures the owners/operators of boilers and pressure vessels and the citizens of Illinois are safe. A boiler or pressure vessel that is improperly repaired or altered by welding creates a risk of explosion due to material failure. The potential energy released would cause metal shrapnel to travel with great force and over great distances. Any internal product released, e.g. steam, chemicals, caustics, etc. may cause scalding or suffocation. There could also be hazardous environmental implications.

Based on the factors in 5 ILCS 80/6 and the additional criteria in 5 ILCS 80/7, GOMB finds that the Act should be recommended for continuation. The record should expressly state that the public protection benefits of regulation outweigh the regulatory costs and that no less restrictive alternative would adequately address the significant and discernible harms identified in this report.

The Act should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening licensees or commerce.