

Indiana Backflow Prevention Association (INABPA) works on Backflow Legislation

James Probst and the Indiana Chapter of ABPA (INBPA) first learned this year that Indiana has no requirements for testing and maintaining backflow protection assemblies within the internal plumbing system of facilities. This information came to light while attending the State's Plumbing Review committee currently tasked with adopting a new 2006 International Plumbing Code. The current plumbing code requires backflow preventers be installed for protection against on site potential hazards posing risk to the drinking water. The fault with this law is that these requirements are only enforceable during the construction phase or during changes to the plumbing system. The plumbing code is not enforceable for testing and maintenance after the construction phase is complete.

At issue are mechanical backflow devices required to be installed per the plumbing code but not required to be tested or maintained by the owner after the construction phase. Backflow preventer that is untested or not maintained at prescribed intervals leaves everyone with a false sense that drinking water it is not. This is contrary to regulations regarding testing and maintaining of backflow preventer at the service connection under Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 327 IAC 8-10 rules. Testing, installing and maintaining backflow assemblies at the service connection are strictly enforced by IDEM.

With the above knowledge, one would question how can the Indiana Plumbing Code require a backflow device to be installed without testing or maintaining the assembly? So INBPA began to draft legislation that would address the intended spirit of backflow protection regulations missing from the Indiana Plumbing Code.

The INBPA contacted several legislators. After explaining the issues, Representative David Niezgodski, South Bend, agreed to author the bill and introduce Bill 1384 into the Indiana House of Representatives last December. The bill was co-sponsored by Representatives Steve Stemier, David Wolkins, and Tim Neese. Bill 1384 would establish rules for testing requirements and

procedures for backflow prevention assemblies contained in an owner's facility plumbing system; require continuing professional education for an Indiana registered cross-connection control inspectors and establishes the cross-connection control inspector continuing education fund used to administer the cross-connection control inspector continuing education program.

*As of February 16, 2011
DIGEST OF HB 1384*

Plumbing matters. Requires the water pollution control board to adopt rules establishing testing requirements and procedures for backflow prevention devices contained in a customer service line. Requires continuing professional education for an Indiana registered cross-connection control inspector. Requires continuing professional education for journeyman plumbers. Establishes the cross-connection control inspector continuing education fund. Provides that the fund may be used to: (1) administer the cross-connection control inspector continuing education program; (2) provide registration cards to an Indiana registered cross-connection control inspector; and (3) maintain and update an Indiana registered cross-connection control inspector database. Provides that the water pollution control board may establish registration fees in an amount not to exceed: (1) \$50 for a new cross-connection control inspector; and (2) \$30 for a renewal cross-connection control inspector. Provides that the amount may not be more than is reasonably necessary to generate revenue sufficient to offset the costs incurred by the Indiana department of environmental management. Requires the water pollution control board to establish rules to require a cross-connection control inspector to indicate as to whether a commercial or residential, excluding agricultural, water distribution system contains moisture sensing technology by providing verification on the cross-connection control inspector's inspection report. Allows a plumber to renew a journeyman plumber's license by verifying compliance with professional education requirements on the license renewal application or by providing course documentation.