

Ridley Park Contractor License Ordinance Update Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this legislation is the updating and consolidation of multiple ordinances to reflect current State laws and trade proficiency requirements.

History

In 2008 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act. This act preempted a significant portion of municipal contractor licensing requirements. Although the act removed the authority of municipalities to license the majority of residential contractors, an exception was provided for local ordinances that required proficiency testing for contractors that were in effect at the time the law was enacted.

Ridley Park Borough has such requirements in Borough Code Chapters 96 Electrical Standards and 158 Plumbing Standards; however, the majority of these chapters were preempted by the adoption of the Uniform Construction Code, and the proficiency standards are antiquated and impossible to comply with.

Summary

This ordinance would repeal Chapters 96 & 158, and relocate the proficiency requirements for plumbers and electricians to Chapter 81 Contractors. The relocated sections would also be amended to make the specific proficiency standards an administrative function that can be updated to reflect appropriate testing agencies and municipal license reciprocity without the need for legislation.

Updates are also made to Chapter 81 to reflect what contractors are subject municipal licensing requirements, modern minimum insurance standards, and clarification of vague or unenforceable language.