



**BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Heidi Porter, MPH, REHS/RS, Director of Public Health

**Board of Health**  
**Policy on Petitions for Plumbing Code Variances**

Background: The BOH office is contacted by a proponent or contractor with information supporting the need for a variance from the MA State Plumbing Code for work proposed at a property in Bedford. They request that the BOH Petition the MA State Plumbing Board for the Variance on their behalf, as is required per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132, Section 14.

- 1) BOH requests the following from the Proponent:
  - a) Plans showing item(s) or feature(s) to be varied;
  - b) A narrative of the proposed change, stating the section of the Plumbing Code that requires varying and an explanation of why the variance is required;
  - c) Written statement from the Bedford Plumbing Inspector stating whether or not he/she agrees with the variance request; and,
  - d) Proponent's written request for the petition from the BOH.
- 2) If requested, Proponent shall be prepared to appear before the BOH at the designated meeting where the proposal will be discussed.
- 3) Proponent should ensure that their hearing before the Plumbing Board is after the BOH meeting at which the variance proposal will be discussed.
- 4) The BOH will review the Proponent's submittal at their next regularly scheduled BOH meeting and will vote on whether to prepare the Petition to the MA State Plumbing Board.
- 5) The Director will contact the proponent to relay the findings of the BOH vote.
- 6) The Director will prepare a written reply to the MA State Plumbing Board on behalf of the Proponent (either a petition in support of the variance as presented, a petition in support of the variance with conditions, or a letter indicating that the Board of Health does not support the variance request).