

**BEFORE THE HVAC/R BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND LICENSING
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

IN RE: LAWRENCE RICE – WAIVER REQUEST

ORDER

This matter came before the HVAC/R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration) Board on Wednesday August 10, 2022. The petitioner, Lawrence Rice seeks approval to obtain an HVAC/R registrant license which he is currently ineligible due to a prior felony conviction. The HVAC/R Board has authority to waive disqualification of a license based on a criminal conviction if the Board decides that the applicant meets requirements listed in the Ark. Code Annotated § 17-3-102(b)(2). Mr. Rice did not appear before the Board for the hearing.

FINDING OF FACT:

1. The petitioner (“Rice”) is requesting approval from the Board to obtain an HVAC/R registrant license. Due to his prior felony conviction from April 2016, he is currently ineligible.
2. Rice did not appear before the Board.
3. Staff reviewed documents and recommended approval based on letters of recommendation and completion of probation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:


1. The Board has authority to waive disqualification of a registrant license based on a criminal conviction pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 17-3-102(b)(1).
2. A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:

- a. The age at which the offense was committed;
 - b. The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - c. The length of time since the offense was committed;
 - d. Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
 - e. Employment references since the offense was committed;
 - f. Character references since the offense was committed;
 - g. Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
 - h. Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health and safety of the public. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-3-102(b)(2).
3. In the present case, the Board was informed of the nature of the criminal conviction and the fact that Fulmer's probationary sentence is set to expire in December 2027.
 4. The Board reviewed staff's recommendation to affirm a motion to approve Rice's request.
 5. The Board voted to grant Lawrence Rice a registrant license.

THEREFORE, the Board grant's Lawrence Rice, an HVAC/R registrant license.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

HVAC/R BOARD


Alan Dean, Chairman

8-11-22
Date

Approved by:

/s/ Miles Morgan

Miles Morgan, 2017-049
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