
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1513 Session of
1998

INTRODUCED BY PICCOLA, LOEPER, CONTI, LEMMOND, SLOCUM AND WHITE,
AUGUST 31, 1998

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
AUGUST 31, 1998

AN ACT

1 Relating to the certified fire protection specialist profession;
2 and providing protection to the profession of certified fire
3 protection specialist.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Protection
8 Act for the Certified Fire Protection Specialist Profession.

9 Section 2. Purpose.

10 The purpose of this act is to provide legal recognition to
11 the certified fire protection specialist profession as well as
12 provide assurance to the public that individuals representing
13 themselves as practicing professionals of certified fire
14 protection specialist have met the required minimum
15 qualifications, thereby protecting the public health and safety
16 from harm.

17 Section 3. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Accredited college or university." A college or university
4 accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies:

5 (1) Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.

6 (2) New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

7 (3) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

8 (4) Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

9 (5) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

10 (6) Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

11 (7) Any college/university offering a degree that is
12 accredited by an accrediting organization that in turn is
13 recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation
14 (CHEA).

15 A college or university that is located outside the United
16 States will be considered on the basis of its accreditation
17 status in the education system that has jurisdiction.

18 "Accredited program." A program that is accredited by the
19 Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET).

20 "Certified Fire Protection Specialist" or "CFPS." A person
21 who has been certified as a CFPS by the Certified Fire
22 Protection Specialist Board and whose certification has not
23 lapsed or been revoked.

24 "Education and experience." The individual must meet one of
25 the following qualifications:

26 (1) (i) a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
27 college or university in fire protection engineering,
28 engineering, fire technology, chemistry, physics or a
29 closely related physical science;

30 (ii) two years' verifiable progressive work

experience in the fire protection field; and

(iii) satisfactory completion of the Certified Fire Protection Specialist written examination; or

(2) (i) a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university that contains at least 60 semester hours in science, mathematics, engineering or technology courses, with at least 15 of these hours at the upper level. A degree that is heavily comprised of only one of these subject areas, in the absence of others, may be judged unacceptable. An unacceptable bachelor's degree may be remedied by additional fire science coursework from an accredited college or university or by completion of a related graduate degree from an accredited college or university;

(ii) two years' verifiable progressive work experience in the fire protection field; and

(iii) satisfactory completion of the Certified Fire Protection Specialist written examination; or

(3) (i) an associate degree from an accredited college or university in fire technology or other related field;

(ii) four years' verifiable progressive work experience in the fire protection field; and

(iii) satisfactory completion of the Certified Fire Protection Specialist written examination; or

(4) (i) a high school diploma or general educational development diploma, plus coursework from a recognized fire school or an accredited college or university;

(ii) six years' verifiable progressive work experience in the fire protection field; and

(iii) satisfactory completion of the Certified Fire

Protection Specialist written examination.

"Experience." The individual has demonstrated work experience, including the ability to:

(1) anticipate and recognize workplace environmental factors and stresses, such as chemical or physical, and understand their effects on people and their well-being;

(2) evaluate, through sampling and testing, the magnitude of these factors and stresses;

(3) prescribe controls to mitigate safety, fire and health hazards and the potential for injury, illness or property damage; or

(4) prescribe methods or devices, including, but not limited to, engineering, administrative, personal protective equipment or training, to eliminate, control or reduce such factors, hazards and stresses to alleviate the effects.

Section 4. Professional regulation.

An individual shall meet the requirements and qualifications as set out in this act before the individual may use the title or represent himself to the public as a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS).

Section 5. Enforcement.

(a) Unfair practice.--It is an unfair practice for any person to represent himself as a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS) unless he complies with the requirements of this act.

(b) Penalty.--A person who violates the provisions of this act is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per day for each day that the violation occurs.

Section 6. Professional practice.

No entity of State or local government shall by rule or

1 otherwise prohibit or restrict the practice of certified fire
2 protection by any qualified individual who complies with the
3 provisions established by or pursuant to this act, except where
4 authorized by State law to regulate a specific activity that may
5 include the practice of certified fire protection.

6 Section 7. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect in 60 days.