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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 642 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, YAW, SCHWANK, SMITH AND  
BROWNE, MARCH 20, 2015

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REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
MARCH 20, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 14, 1982 (P.L.1227, No.281),  
2 entitled "An act regulating the practice of architecture in  
3 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; providing for the  
4 examination and licensure of architects by a State Architects  
5 Licensure Board; and providing penalties," further providing  
6 for definitions, for powers of board and for issuance and  
7 renewal of certificates.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of December 14, 1982  
11 (P.L.1227, No.281), known as the Architects Licensure Law, is  
12 amended by adding definitions to read:

13 Section 3. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
15 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
16 meanings given to them in this section:

17 \* \* \*

18 "Continuing education." Educational activities that:

19 (1) promote competency of licensees;

20 (2) are given by providers that are approved by the

1 board; and

2 (3) meet the criteria established by regulations  
3 promulgated by the board.

4 \* \* \*

5 "Health, safety and welfare credits." Technical and  
6 professional subjects that the board deems appropriate to  
7 safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare. The subjects  
8 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

9 (1) Building design.

10 (2) Environmental or land use analysis.

11 (3) Life safety systems.

12 (4) Building programming.

13 (5) Site and soils analysis.

14 (6) Accessibility.

15 (7) Lateral forces and seismic design.

16 (8) Building codes.

17 (9) Evaluation and selection of building systems,  
18 products or materials.

19 (10) Construction methods.

20 (11) Contract documentation.

21 (12) Construction administration.

22 (13) Electrical system considerations.

23 (14) Mechanical system considerations.

24 (15) Plumbing system considerations.

25 (16) Structural system considerations.

26 (17) Standards of professional conduct and ethics.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 2. Section 6 of the act is amended by adding a  
29 subsection to read:

30 Section 6. Powers of board.

1 \* \* \*

2 (b.1) The board shall promulgate and enforce rules and  
3 regulations consistent with the provisions of this act  
4 establishing requirements for continuing education to be  
5 satisfied by all individuals holding a certificate to engage in  
6 the practice of architecture as a condition of certificate  
7 renewal.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 3. Section 10(a) of the act is amended and the  
10 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

11 Section 10. Issuance and renewal of certificates.

12 (a) Upon payment of the fees required by section 11, an  
13 individual who has complied with subsection (a.1) and section 8  
14 or 9 shall be entitled to a certificate indicating that [he] the  
15 individual is qualified to engage in the practice of  
16 architecture in this Commonwealth. Each certificate shall  
17 contain the name of the individual to whom it was issued and  
18 shall be valid for [a period of two years.] the applicable  
19 biennial licensure period or the remainder of the applicable  
20 biennial licensure period.

21 (a.1) The following apply to continuing education:

22 (1) As a condition for the biennial renewal of a  
23 license, a licensee must provide certification of successful  
24 completion of a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education,  
25 in accordance with regulations established by the board. A  
26 minimum of 12 hours of the continuing education must be in  
27 the areas of health, safety and welfare credits.

28 (2) A licensee of another jurisdiction in which the  
29 architect's primary practice is located shall be deemed to  
30 have satisfied the continuing education requirement under

1 paragraph (1) if the licensee certifies on the biennial  
2 renewal application that the licensee has satisfied the  
3 continuing education requirement of the jurisdiction of  
4 primary practice if that jurisdiction requires an equivalent  
5 amount of credits as required under paragraph (1).

6 (3) Certification of credit hours submitted by a  
7 licensee must be properly signed as being correct and true.

8 (4) An individual applying for initial licensure shall  
9 be exempt from the continuing education requirement during  
10 the biennial licensure period in which the individual  
11 obtained initial licensure.

12 (5) The board may waive all or part of the continuing  
13 education requirement for a licensee who provides evidence  
14 satisfactory to the board that the licensee was unable to  
15 complete the requirement due to illness, emergency, hardship  
16 or active military service.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.