

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 223 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, BENNINGHOFF, BLOOM, D. COSTA, DALEY,
HARKINS, HARPER AND MILLARD, JANUARY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JANUARY 31, 2017

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 which:

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, 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 establish, adopt, promulgate and
3 enforce rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of
4 this act setting forth a continuing education requirement to be
5 satisfied by all individuals holding a certificate to engage in
6 the practice of architecture as a condition of renewal of the
7 certificate.

8 * * *

9 Section 3. Section 10(a) of the act is amended to read:

10 Section 10. Issuance and renewal of certificates.

11 (a) Upon payment of the fees required by section 11, an
12 individual who has complied with section 8 or 9 shall be
13 entitled to a certificate indicating that [he] the individual is
14 qualified to engage in the practice of architecture in this
15 Commonwealth. Each certificate shall contain the name of the
16 individual to whom it was issued and shall be valid for [a
17 period of two years.] the applicable biennial period or the
18 remainder of the applicable biennial licensure period. The
19 following shall apply to the continuing education requirement
20 under section 6(b.1):

21 (1) As a condition for the biennial renewal of a
22 license, a licensee must provide certification of successful
23 completion of a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education.
24 A minimum of 12 hours of the required continuing education
25 must be in the subject areas of health, safety and welfare
26 credits.

27 (2) A licensee of another jurisdiction in which the
28 architect's primary practice is located shall be deemed to
29 have satisfied the continuing education requirement under
30 paragraph (1) if the licensee:

1 (i) has a continuing education requirement in the
2 jurisdiction of primary practice; and

3 (ii) certifies on the biennial renewal application
4 that the licensee has satisfied the continuing education
5 requirement of the jurisdiction of primary practice.

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 the 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.