
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 432 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF AND SCHWANK, FEBRUARY 27, 2017

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
FEBRUARY 27, 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 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 which the board deems appropriate to
7 safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare. The subjects
8 shall include 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 this act establishing requirements
4 for continuing education to be satisfied by all individuals
5 holding a certificate to engage in the practice of architecture
6 as a condition of certificate renewal.

7 * * *

8 Section 3. Section 10(a) is amended and the section is
9 amended by adding a subsection 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 subsection (a.1) and section 8
13 or 9 shall be entitled to a certificate indicating that [he] the
14 individual is qualified to engage in the practice of
15 architecture in this Commonwealth. Each certificate shall
16 contain the name of the individual to whom it was issued and
17 shall be valid for [a period of two years.] the applicable
18 biennial licensure period or the remainder of the applicable
19 biennial licensure period.

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

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 in accordance with regulations established by the board. A
25 minimum of 12 hours of the continuing education must be in
26 the areas of health, safety and welfare 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 certifies on the biennial

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

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

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

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

16 * * *

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