

## CHAPTER 2014-73

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 404

An act relating to professional geology; amending s. 492.104, F.S.; providing for apportionment of examination fees; amending s. 492.105, F.S.; revising examination requirements for professional geologists; creating s. 492.1051, F.S.; providing requirements for registration as a geologist-in-training; requiring geologist-in-training applicants to successfully complete the fundamentals of geology portion of the licensure examination; requiring an application fee and a refundable examination fee; requiring the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to submit each completed application to the Board of Professional Geologists for certification; setting forth the criteria the board may use to certify applicants; requiring the department to register each person as a geologist-in-training whom the board certifies has successfully completed the fundamentals portion of the geology examination; exempting registered geologist-in-training seeking licensure as a professional geologist from retaking the fundamentals of geology portion of the examination; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 492.104, Florida Statutes, is amended to read

492.104 Rulemaking authority.—The Board of Professional Geologists has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. Every licensee shall be governed and controlled by this chapter and the rules adopted by the board. The board is authorized to set, by rule, fees for application, examination, certificate of authorization, late renewal, initial licensure, and license renewal. These fees should not exceed the cost of implementing the application, examination, initial licensure, and license renewal or other administrative process and shall be established as follows:

(2) The examination fee shall not exceed \$250 and the fee may be apportioned to each part of a multi-part examination. The examination fee shall be refundable in whole or part if the applicant is found to be ineligible to take any portion of the licensure examination.

Section 2. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 492.105, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

492.105 Licensure by examination; requirements; fees.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a professional geologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination. The written licensure examination shall be designed to test an applicant's qualifications

to practice professional geology, and shall include such subjects as will tend to ascertain the applicant's knowledge of the fundamentals, theory, and the practice of professional geology and may include such subjects as are taught in curricula of accredited colleges and universities. The written licensure examination may be a multi-part examination. The department shall examine each applicant who the board certifies:

(d) Has fulfilled ~~Fulfills~~ the following educational requirements at a college or university, the geological curricula of which meet the criteria established by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education:

1. Graduation from such college or university with a major in geology or other related science acceptable to the board; and

2. Satisfactory completion of at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework courses, ~~24 of which must be at the third or fourth year or graduate level.~~

(e) ~~Has at least 5 7 years of~~ verified professional geological work experience, which includes ~~shall include~~ a minimum of 3 years of professional geological work under the supervision of a licensed or qualified geologist or professional engineer registered under chapter 471 as qualified in the field or discipline of professional engineering work performed involved; or has have a minimum of 5 accumulative years of verified geological work years' experience in responsible charge of geological work as determined by the board. ~~The following criteria of education and experience qualify, as specified, toward accumulation of the required 7 years of professional geological work:~~

~~1. Each year of undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as ½ year of the experience requirement, up to a maximum of 2 years, and each year of graduate study shall count as 1 year of the experience requirement.~~

~~2. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and graduate courses, individually or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of 2 years toward meeting the requirements for at least 7 years of professional geological work.~~

~~3. Full-time teaching or research in the geological sciences at the college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category.~~

~~4. The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by his or her having performed the work in a responsible position as determined by the board.~~

Section 3. Section 492.1051, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

492.1051 Registered geologist-in-training; requirements.—

(1) A person desiring to register as a geologist-in-training shall apply to the department to take a discrete portion of the examination required for licensure as a professional geologist in this state. This discrete portion shall cover the fundamentals of geology. The department shall examine each applicant who the board certifies:

(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee and an examination fee that is refundable if the applicant is found to be ineligible to take the examination.

(b) Has not committed an act or offense in any jurisdiction which constitutes grounds for disciplining a professional geologist licensed under this chapter; and

(c) Has successfully completed at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework at a college or university, the geological curricula of which meet the criteria established by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education and, if still enrolled, has provided a letter of good academic standing from the college or university.

(2) The department shall register as a geologist-in-training each applicant who the board certifies has passed the fundamentals of geology portion of the licensure examination.

(3) A registered geologist-in-training desiring to be licensed as a professional geologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination as prescribed in s. 492.105(1), but is not required to retake the fundamentals of geology portion of the licensure examination.

Section 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor June 13, 2014.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 13, 2014.