

CHAPTER 2024-178

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1335

An act relating to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; amending s. 210.15 and creating s. 210.32, F.S.; requiring persons or entities licensed or permitted by the department's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, or applying for such license or permit, to create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the division; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications not submitted through the online system; amending s. 210.40, F.S.; revising the amount of an initial corporate surety bond required as a condition of licensure as a tobacco product distributor; requiring the division to review corporate surety bond amounts on a specified basis; authorizing the division to increase a bond amount, subject to specified conditions; authorizing the division to adjust bond amounts by rule; authorizing the division to reduce a bond amount upon a showing of good cause; defining terms; prohibiting the division from reducing a bond amount under specified circumstances; requiring the division to notify distributors in writing if their corporate surety bond requirements change; providing applicability; authorizing the division to adopt rules; amending s. 310.0015, F.S.; deleting a provision requiring a competency-based mentor program at ports; deleting a requirement that the department submit an annual report on the mentor program; amending s. 310.081, F.S.; deleting a requirement that the department consider certain characteristics for applicants for certification as a deputy pilot; making technical changes; creating s. 399.18, F.S.; requiring certain persons or entities certified or registered under the Elevator Safety Act, or applying for such certifications or registrations, to create and maintain an online account with the department's Division of Hotels and Restaurants and provide an e-mail address to the division; requiring such persons and entities to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring the division to adopt rules; amending s. 468.521, F.S.; authorizing the department to exercise all powers and duties granted to the Board of Employee Leasing Companies if the board lacks the number of appointed members needed to constitute a quorum; amending s. 469.006, F.S.; revising requirements for department rules governing evidence of financial responsibility of applicants seeking licensure as a business organization under ch. 469, F.S.; amending s. 471.003, F.S.; expanding an exemption from certain engineering licensing requirements under ch. 471, F.S., to include regular full-time employees of certain business organizations, rather than regular full-time employees of certain corporations licensed under ch. 471, F.S.; amending s. 473.306, F.S.; requiring applicants for the accountancy licensure examination to create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address; requiring applicants to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring that address changes be submitted through

the department's online system within a specified timeframe; conforming cross-references; amending s. 473.308, F.S.; requiring a person seeking licensure as a Florida certified public accountant, or a firm seeking to engage in public accountancy, to create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address; requiring certified public accountants and accounting firms to maintain the accuracy of their contact information; requiring that address changes be submitted through the department's online system within a specified timeframe; amending s. 476.114, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for licensure as a barber; making technical changes; amending s. 477.019, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for licensure by examination to practice cosmetology; amending s. 489.131, F.S.; revising the types of penalties that may be recommended by a local jurisdiction enforcement body against a contractor; specifying requirements for any such recommended penalties; amending s. 489.143, F.S.; revising payment limitations for payments made from the department's Florida Homeowners' Construction Recovery Fund; amending s. 489.505, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "specialty contractor"; amending s. 499.012, F.S.; revising requirements for certification as a designated representative of a prescription drug wholesale distributor; amending s. 561.15, F.S.; revising the requirements for the issuance of a license under the Beverage Law; making technical changes; amending s. 561.17, F.S.; requiring persons or entities licensed or permitted by the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, or applying for such license or permit, to create and maintain an account with the division's online system; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications not submitted through the online system; creating ss. 569.00256 and 569.3156, F.S.; requiring certain persons or entities licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for such a license or permit, to create and maintain an account with the division's online system; requiring licensees, permittees, and applicants to provide the division with an e-mail address and maintain accurate contact information; specifying application requirements; prohibiting the division from processing applications not submitted through the online system; amending ss. 210.16 and 476.144, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present paragraphs (a) through (h) of subsection (1) of section 210.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (b) through (i), respectively, and a new paragraph (a) is added to that subsection, to read:

210.15 Permits.—

(1)

(a) A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the

division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit under this part must apply using forms furnished by the division which are filed through the division's online system before commencing operations. The division may not process an application for a license or permit issued by the division under this part unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.

Section 2. Section 210.32, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

210.32 Account; online system.—A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division's online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or a permit under this part must apply using forms furnished by the division which are filed through the division's online system before commencing operations. The division may not process an application for a license or permit issued by the division under this part unless the application is submitted through the division's online system.

Section 3. Section 210.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

210.40 License fees; surety bond; application for each place of business.

(1) Each application for a distributor's license must ~~shall~~ be accompanied by a fee of \$25. The application must ~~shall~~ also be accompanied by a corporate surety bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned for the payment when due of all taxes, penalties, and accrued interest which may be due the state. The initial corporate surety bond shall be in the sum of \$25,000 ~~\$1,000~~ and in a form prescribed by the division.

(a) The division shall review the amount of a corporate surety bond on a semiannual basis to ensure that the bond amount is adequate to protect the state.

(b) The division may increase the corporate surety bond amount before renewing a distributor's license or after completing its semiannual review of the bond amount.

(c) The corporate surety bond amount may be increased to the sum of the distributor's highest month of final audited tax liabilities, penalties, and accrued interest which are due to the state.

(2) A corporate surety bond, with the sum determined by the division in accordance with paragraph (1)(c), is required for renewal of a distributor's license.

(3) The division may prescribe by rule increases in the corporate surety bond amounts required as a condition of licensure.

(4)(a) The division may reduce the amount of a corporate surety bond upon a distributor's showing of good cause. For purposes of this subsection, the term:

1. "Fully resolved" means that criminal or administrative charges or investigations have been definitively closed or dismissed, have resulted in an acquittal, or have otherwise ended in such a manner that no further legal or administrative actions relating to charges or investigations are pending against a licensee under applicable laws, rules, or regulations.

2. "Good cause" means a consistent pattern of responsible financial behavior by the distributor over a period of at least the preceding 4 years, and having the sum of the distributor's final audited tax liabilities, penalties, and interest be less than the amount of the distributor's corporate surety bond for every month for a period of at least the preceding 4 years.

3. "Responsible financial behavior" includes the timely and complete reporting and payment of all tax liabilities, penalties, and accrued interest due to the state for a period of at least the preceding 4 years.

(b) The division may not reduce a corporate surety bond amount when a licensee:

1. Is in default of any tax liabilities, penalties, or interest due to the state;

2. Is the subject of a pending criminal prosecution in any jurisdiction until such prosecution has been fully resolved;

3. Has pending administrative charges brought by an authorized regulatory body or agency which have not been fully resolved in accordance with applicable rules and procedures; or

4. Is under investigation by any administrative body or agency for potential criminal violations until any such investigation is completed and the findings of the investigation have been fully resolved in accordance with applicable law.

(5) The division shall notify a distributor in writing of any change in the distributor's corporate surety bond requirements by the date on which the distributor's audited tax assessments become final.

(6) The provisions of this section governing corporate surety bonds are not subject to s. 120.60 ~~Whenever it is the opinion of the division that the bond given by a licensee is inadequate in amount to fully protect the state, the division shall require an additional bond in such amount as is deemed sufficient.~~

(7) A separate application for a license must ~~shall~~ be made for each place of business at which a distributor proposes to engage in business as a distributor under this part, but an applicant may provide one corporate surety bond in an amount determined by the division for all applications made by the distributor consistent with the requirements of this section.

(8) The division may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 310.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

310.0015 Piloting regulation; general provisions.—

(3) The rate-setting process, the issuance of licenses only in numbers deemed necessary or prudent by the board, and other aspects of the economic regulation of piloting established in this chapter are intended to protect the public from the adverse effects of unrestricted competition which would result from an unlimited number of licensed pilots being allowed to market their services on the basis of lower prices rather than safety concerns. This system of regulation benefits and protects the public interest by maximizing safety, avoiding uneconomic duplication of capital expenses and facilities, and enhancing state regulatory oversight. The system seeks to provide pilots with reasonable revenues, taking into consideration the normal uncertainties of vessel traffic and port usage, sufficient to maintain reliable, stable piloting operations. Pilots have certain restrictions and obligations under this system, including, but not limited to, the following:

~~(d)1.~~ The pilot or pilots in a port shall train and compensate all member deputy pilots in that port. Failure to train or compensate such deputy pilots constitutes ~~shall constitute~~ a ground for disciplinary action under s. 310.101. Nothing in this subsection may ~~shall~~ be deemed to create an agency or employment relationship between a pilot or deputy pilot and the pilot or pilots in a port.

~~2.~~ ~~The pilot or pilots in a port shall establish a competency-based mentor program by which minority persons as defined in s. 288.703 may acquire the skills for the professional preparation and education competency requirements of a licensed state pilot or certificated deputy pilot. The department shall provide the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives with a report each year on the number of minority persons as defined in s. 288.703 who have participated in each mentor program, who are licensed state pilots or certificated deputy pilots, and who have applied for state pilot licensure or deputy pilot certification.~~

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 310.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

310.081 Department to examine and license state pilots and certificate deputy pilots; vacancies.—

(2) The department shall similarly examine persons who file applications for certificate as deputy pilot, and, if upon examination to determine proficiency the department finds them qualified, the department must shall certify as qualified all applicants who pass the examination, provided that not more than five persons who passed the examination are certified for each declared opening. If more than five applicants per opening pass the examination, the persons having the highest scores must shall be certified as qualified up to the number of openings times five. ~~The department shall give consideration to the minority and female status of applicants when qualifying deputy pilots, in the interest of ensuring diversification within the state piloting profession.~~ The department shall appoint and certificate such number of deputy pilots from those applicants deemed qualified as in the discretion of the board are required in the respective ports of the state. A deputy pilot shall be authorized by the department to pilot vessels within the limits and specifications established by the licensed state pilots at the port where the deputy is appointed to serve.

Section 6. Section 399.18, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

399.18 Online services account.—

(1) A certified elevator inspector, certified elevator technician, or registered elevator company; a person or entity seeking to become certified or registered as such; a person who has been issued an elevator certificate of competency; a person who is seeking such certificate; a person or entity who has been issued an elevator certificate of operation; and a person or entity who is seeking such a certificate must create and maintain an online account with the division and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication from the division. Each person or entity is responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division.

(2) The division shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 7. Subsection (4) is added to section 468.521, Florida Statutes, to read:

468.521 Board of Employee Leasing Companies; membership; appointments; terms.—

(4) If at any time a sufficient number of appointed board members does not exist to constitute a quorum pursuant to s. 455.207, the department may, only during the absence of such quorum, exercise all powers and duties granted to the board pursuant to chapter 455 and this chapter.

Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 469.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

469.006 Licensure of business organizations; qualifying agents.—

(2)

(c) As a prerequisite to the issuance of a license under this section, the applicant shall submit the following:

1. An affidavit on a form provided by the department attesting that the applicant has obtained workers' compensation insurance as required by chapter 440, public liability insurance, and property damage insurance, in amounts determined by department rule. The department shall establish by rule a procedure to verify the accuracy of such affidavits based upon a random sample method.

2. Evidence of financial responsibility. The department shall adopt rules to determine financial responsibility which must ~~shall~~ specify grounds on which the department may deny licensure. Such criteria must ~~shall~~ include, but is ~~is not~~ limited to, credit history and ~~limits of bondability and credit.~~

Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 471.003, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

471.003 Qualifications for practice; exemptions.—

(2) The following persons are not required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter as a licensed engineer:

(c) Regular full-time employees of a business organization corporation not engaged in the practice of engineering as such, whose practice of engineering for such business organization corporation is limited to the design or fabrication of manufactured products and servicing of such products.

Section 10. Section 473.306, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

473.306 Examinations.—

(1) A person desiring to be licensed as a Florida certified public accountant shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.

(2) A person applying to the department to take the licensure examination must create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address to function as the primary means of contact for all communication to the applicant from the department. Each applicant is responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the department and must submit any change in the applicant's e-mail address or home address within 30 days after the change. All changes must be submitted through the department's online system.

(3) An applicant is entitled to take the licensure examination to practice in this state as a certified public accountant if:

(a) The applicant has completed 120 semester hours or 180 quarter hours from an accredited college or university with a concentration in accounting and business courses as specified by the board by rule; and

(b) The applicant shows that she or he has good moral character. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “good moral character” has the same meaning as provided in s. 473.308(7)(a) ~~s. 473.308(6)(a)~~. The board may refuse to allow an applicant to take the licensure examination for failure to satisfy this requirement if:

1. The board finds a reasonable relationship between the lack of good moral character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of a certified public accountant; and

2. The finding by the board of lack of good moral character is supported by competent substantial evidence.

If an applicant is found pursuant to this paragraph to be unqualified to take the licensure examination because of a lack of good moral character, the board shall furnish to the applicant a statement containing the findings of the board, a complete record of the evidence upon which the determination was based, and a notice of the rights of the applicant to a rehearing and appeal.

~~(4)(3)~~ The board shall have the authority to establish the standards for determining and shall determine:

(a) What constitutes a passing grade for each subject or part of the licensure examination;

(b) Which educational institutions, in addition to the universities in the State University System of Florida, shall be deemed to be accredited colleges or universities;

(c) What courses and number of hours constitute a major in accounting; and

(d) What courses and number of hours constitute additional accounting courses acceptable under s. 473.308(4) ~~s. 473.308(3)~~.

~~(5)(4)~~ The board may adopt an alternative licensure examination for persons who have been licensed to practice public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country so long as the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has ratified an agreement with that country for reciprocal licensure.

~~(6)(5)~~ For the purposes of maintaining the proper educational qualifications for licensure under this chapter, the board may appoint an Educational Advisory Committee, which shall be composed of one member of the board, two persons in public practice who are licensed under this chapter, and four academicians on faculties of universities in this state.

Section 11. Present subsections (3) through (9) of section 473.308, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) through (10), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and subsection (2),

paragraph (b) of present subsection (4), and present subsection (8) of that section are amended, to read:

473.308 Licensure.—

(2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant who successfully passes the licensure examination and satisfies the requirements of subsections ~~(4), (5), and (6)~~ ~~(3), (4), and (5)~~, and shall certify for licensure any firm that satisfies the requirements of ss. 473.309 and 473.3101. The board may refuse to certify any applicant or firm that has violated any of the provisions of s. 473.322.

(3) A person desiring to be licensed as a Florida certified public accountant or a firm desiring to engage in the practice of public accounting must create and maintain an online account with the department and provide an e-mail address to function as the primary means of contact for all communication from the department. Certified public accountants and firms are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the department and must submit any change in an e-mail address or street address within 30 days after the change. All changes must be submitted through the department's online system.

~~(5)(4)~~

(b) However, an applicant who completed the requirements of subsection ~~(4)~~ ~~(3)~~ on or before December 31, 2008, and who passes the licensure examination on or before June 30, 2010, is exempt from the requirements of this subsection.

~~(9)(8)~~ If the applicant has at least 5 years of experience in the practice of public accountancy in the United States or in the practice of public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country that the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the United States, or has at least 5 years of work experience that meets the requirements of subsection ~~(5)~~ ~~(4)~~, the board must ~~shall~~ waive the requirements of subsection ~~(4)~~ ~~(3)~~ which are in excess of a baccalaureate degree. All experience that is used as a basis for waiving the requirements of subsection ~~(4)~~ ~~(3)~~ must be while licensed as a certified public accountant by another state or territory of the United States or while licensed in the practice of public accountancy or its equivalent in a foreign country that the International Qualifications Appraisal Board of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy has determined has licensure standards that are substantially equivalent to those in the United States. The board shall have the authority to establish the standards for experience that meet this requirement.

Section 12. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 476.114, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

476.114 Examination; prerequisites.—

(2) An applicant ~~is shall~~ be eligible for licensure by examination to practice barbering if the applicant:

(a) Is at least 16 years of age;

(b) Pays the required application fee; and

~~(c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice barbering in another state, has held the license for at least 1 year, and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided for in s. 476.144(5); or~~

2. Has received a minimum of 900 hours of training in sanitation, safety, and laws and rules, as established by the board, which must shall include, but ~~is shall~~ not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services directly related to the practice of barbering at one of the following:

1.a. A school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter 1005;

2.b. A barbering program within the public school system; or

3.e. A government-operated barbering program in this state.

The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the school or program may certify that a person is qualified to take the required examination after the completion of a minimum of 600 actual school hours. If the person passes the examination, she or he has shall have satisfied this requirement; but if the person fails the examination, she or he may shall not be qualified to take the examination again until the completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

(3) An applicant who meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (2)(c) subparagraphs (2)(c)1. and 2. who fails to pass the examination may take subsequent examinations as many times as necessary to pass, except that the board may specify by rule reasonable timeframes for rescheduling the examination and additional training requirements for applicants who, after the third attempt, fail to pass the examination. Prior to reexamination, the applicant must file the appropriate form and pay the reexamination fee as required by rule.

Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 477.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure; supervised practice; license renewal; endorsement; continuing education.—

(2) An applicant ~~is shall~~ be eligible for licensure by examination to practice cosmetology if the applicant:

(a) Is at least 16 years of age or has received a high school diploma;

(b) Pays the required application fee, which is not refundable, and the required examination fee, which is refundable if the applicant is determined to not be eligible for licensure for any reason other than failure to successfully complete the licensure examination; and

~~(c)1.— Is authorized to practice cosmetology in another state or country, has been so authorized for at least 1 year, and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided for in subsection (5); or~~

2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training as established by the board, which must shall include, but is shall not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services directly related to the practice of cosmetology at one of the following:

1.a. A school of cosmetology licensed pursuant to chapter 1005.

2.b. A cosmetology program within the public school system.

3.e. The Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, provided the division meets the standards of this chapter.

4.d. A government-operated cosmetology program in this state.

The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the school or program may certify that a person is qualified to take the required examination after the completion of a minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person then passes the examination, he or she has shall have satisfied this requirement; but if the person fails the examination, he or she may shall not be qualified to take the examination again until the completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

Section 14. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 489.131, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.131 Applicability.—

(7)

(c) In addition to any action the local jurisdiction enforcement body may take against the individual's local license, and any fine the local jurisdiction may impose, the local jurisdiction enforcement body shall issue a recommended penalty for board action. This recommended penalty may include a recommendation for no further action, or a recommendation for suspension, restitution, revocation, or restriction of the registration, or a fine to be levied by the board, or a combination thereof. The recommended penalty must specify the violations of this chapter upon which the recommendation is based. The local jurisdiction enforcement body shall inform the disciplined contractor and the complainant of the local license penalty imposed, the board penalty recommended, his or her rights to appeal, and the consequences should he or she decide not to appeal. The local jurisdiction enforcement body shall, upon having reached adjudication or having

accepted a plea of nolo contendere, immediately inform the board of its action and the recommended board penalty.

Section 15. Subsections (3) and (6) of section 489.143, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

489.143 Payment from the fund.—

(3) Beginning January 1, 2005, for each Division I contract entered into after July 1, 2004, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$50,000 maximum payment for each Division I claim. Beginning January 1, 2017, for each Division II contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$15,000 maximum payment for each Division II claim. Beginning January 1, 2025, for Division I and Division II contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024, payment from the recovery fund is subject to a \$100,000 maximum payment for each Division I claim and a \$30,000 maximum payment for each Division II claim.

(6) For contracts entered into before July 1, 2004, payments for claims against any one licensee may not exceed, in the aggregate, \$100,000 annually, up to a total aggregate of \$250,000. For any claim approved by the board which is in excess of the annual cap, the amount in excess of \$100,000 up to the total aggregate cap of \$250,000 is eligible for payment in the next and succeeding fiscal years, but only after all claims for the then-current calendar year have been paid. Payments may not exceed the aggregate annual or per claimant limits under law. Beginning January 1, 2005, for each Division I contract entered into after July 1, 2004, payment from the recovery fund is subject only to a total aggregate cap of \$500,000 for each Division I licensee. Beginning January 1, 2017, for each Division II contract entered into on or after July 1, 2016, payment from the recovery fund is subject only to a total aggregate cap of \$150,000 for each Division II licensee. Beginning January 1, 2025, for Division I and Division II contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2024, payment from the recovery fund is subject only to a total aggregate cap of \$2 million for each Division I licensee and \$600,000 for each Division II licensee.

Section 16. Subsection (19) of section 489.505, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.505 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(19) “Specialty contractor” means a contractor whose scope of practice is limited to a specific segment of electrical or alarm system contracting established in a category adopted by board rule, including, but not limited to, residential electrical contracting, maintenance of electrical fixtures, and fabrication, erection, installation, and maintenance of electrical and nonelectrical advertising signs together with the interrelated parts and supports thereof.

Section 17. Paragraph (b) of subsection (15) of section 499.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

499.012 Permit application requirements.—

(15)

(b) To be certified as a designated representative, a natural person must:

1. Submit an application on a form furnished by the department and pay the appropriate fees.

2. Be at least 18 years of age.

3. Have at least 2 years of verifiable full-time:

a. Work experience in a pharmacy licensed in this state or another state, where the person's responsibilities included, but were not limited to, recordkeeping for prescription drugs;

b. Managerial experience with a prescription drug wholesale distributor licensed in this state or in another state; ~~or~~

c. Managerial experience with the United States Armed Forces, where the person's responsibilities included, but were not limited to, recordkeeping, warehousing, distributing, or other logistics services pertaining to prescription drugs;

d. Managerial experience with a state or federal organization responsible for regulating or permitting establishments involved in the distribution of prescription drugs, whether in an administrative or a sworn law enforcement capacity; or

e. Work experience as a drug inspector or investigator with a state or federal organization, whether in an administrative or a sworn law enforcement capacity, where the person's responsibilities related primarily to compliance with state or federal requirements pertaining to the distribution of prescription drugs.

4. Receive a passing score of at least 75 percent on an examination given by the department regarding federal laws governing distribution of prescription drugs and this part and the rules adopted by the department governing the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs. This requirement shall be effective 1 year after the results of the initial examination are mailed to the persons that took the examination. The department shall offer such examinations at least four times each calendar year.

5. Provide the department with a personal information statement and fingerprints pursuant to subsection (9).

Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 561.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

561.15 Licenses; qualifications required.—

(2) ~~A~~ ~~No~~ license under the Beverage Law ~~may not shall~~ be issued to any person who has been convicted within the last past 5 years of any offense against the beverage laws of this state, the United States, or any other state; who has been convicted within the last past 5 years in this state or any other state or the United States of soliciting for prostitution, pandering, letting premises for prostitution, or keeping a disorderly place or of any criminal violation of chapter 893 or the controlled substance act of any other state or the Federal Government; or who has been convicted in the last past ~~10~~ ~~15~~ years of any felony in this state or any other state or the United States; or to a corporation, any of the officers of which ~~shall~~ have been so convicted. The term “conviction” ~~includes shall include~~ an adjudication of guilt on a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or the forfeiture of a bond when charged with a crime.

Section 19. Subsection (5) of section 561.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

561.17 License and registration applications; approved person.—

(5) Any person or entity licensed or permitted by the division, or applying for a license or permit, must create and maintain an account with the division’s online system and provide an e-mail electronic-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, or permittee, or applicant. Licensees, ~~and~~ and permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information on file with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division’s online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application for an alcoholic beverage license unless the application is submitted through the division’s online system.

Section 20. Section 569.00256, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

569.00256 Account; online system.—A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the division under this part, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division’s online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division’s online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application to deal, at retail, in tobacco products unless the application is submitted through the division’s online system.

Section 21. Section 569.3156, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

569.3156 Account; online system.—A person or an entity licensed or permitted by the division under this part, or applying for a license or a permit, must create and maintain an account with the division’s online system and provide an e-mail address to the division to function as the primary means of contact for all communication by the division to the licensee, permittee, or applicant. Licensees, permittees, and applicants are responsible for maintaining accurate contact information with the division. A person or an entity seeking a license or permit from the division must apply using forms prepared by the division and filed through the division’s online system before engaging in any business for which a license or permit is required. The division may not process an application to deal, at retail, in nicotine products unless the application is submitted through the division’s online system.

Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 210.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

210.16 Revocation or suspension of permit.—

(2) The division shall revoke the permit or permits of any person who would be ineligible to obtain a new license or renew a license by reason of any of the conditions for permitting provided in ~~s. 210.15(1)(d)1.-6.~~ ~~s. 210.15(1)(e) 1.-6.~~

Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 476.144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

476.144 Licensure.—

(6) A person may apply for a restricted license to practice barbering. The board shall adopt rules specifying procedures for an applicant to obtain a restricted license if the applicant:

(a)1. Has successfully completed a restricted barber course, as established by rule of the board, at a school of barbering licensed pursuant to chapter 1005, a barbering program within the public school system, or a government-operated barbering program in this state; or

2.a. Holds or has within the previous 5 years held an active valid license to practice barbering in another state or country or has held a Florida barbering license which has been declared null and void for failure to renew the license, and the applicant fulfilled the requirements of ~~s. 476.114(2)(c) s. 476.114(2)(e)2.~~ for initial licensure; and

b. Has not been disciplined relating to the practice of barbering in the previous 5 years; and

The restricted license shall limit the licensee’s practice to those specific areas in which the applicant has demonstrated competence pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

Section 24. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 10, 2024.