

CHAPTER 2026-199

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 4035

An act relating to Palm Beach County; amending chapter 67-1876, Laws of Florida, as amended; revising requirements for the examinations administered by the Palm Beach County Construction Industry Licensing Board for certificates of competency; revising the Board's applicant review process; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 5 of chapter 67-1876, Laws of Florida, as amended, is amended to read:

Section 5. Certification.—

(A) To obtain a certificate of competency an applicant shall submit an application in writing to the Board containing the statement that the applicant desires the issuance of a certificate and the class of certificate desired on a form containing the information prescribed by the Board which shall be accompanied by the fee fixed by the Board. All applicants must be of good moral character and 18 years of age or older.

(B) The application shall contain the following:

(1) Evidence in the form of affidavits from former employers, building officials, school officials, or other persons to verify the required experience and education.

(2) A credit report on the applicant from a nationally recognized credit agency.

(3) Any other pertinent information prescribed by the Board by rule or regulation.

(C)(1) Examinations shall be administered ~~held~~ at times and locations ~~places~~ within the county as the Board determines, ~~but there shall be offered at least one examination every 3 months. Each applicant must complete an objective written examination that evaluates the applicant's qualifications for certification in the category for which the applicant applies. The examination must be tailored to the scope of work associated with the requested certificate and must assess knowledge of contracting and construction principles relevant to that category. At the Board's discretion, an applicant for a specialty contractor and journeyman certificate may fulfill the examination requirement through an oral examination. An applicant must achieve a passing grade on all required exams prior to being eligible for Board certification. A maximum of four examinations in a category may be taken in a 12-month period, but examinations may not be rescheduled until 60 days have elapsed. Each applicant shall take an objective written~~

~~examination about his fitness for a certificate in the category for which application is made. There shall be a type of examination for each of the categories which shall apply to the type of work covered by the certificate applied for. The examination shall cover knowledge of basic principles of contracting and construction applicable to the category for which a certificate is requested. The Board may authorize applicants for specialty contractors and journeymen certificates to complete the examination requirements by taking and passing an oral examination.~~

(2) A passing grade on the examination is 75 percent.

(D) Upon ~~Following~~ receipt of the required ~~required~~ fee and a complete ~~complete~~ application, the Board shall review ~~investigate~~ the applicant's qualifications, including the applicant's financial responsibility, credit history reputation, education, examination, experience, and business reputation, and the business reputation of any business agency on behalf of which the applicant proposes to engage in contracting. The review must also include any business entity that the applicant represents in contracting activities. If the applicant achieves a passing score on the examination and satisfies all other requirements, the Board shall confirm to the applicant the Board's readiness ~~If the applicant is approved by the Board the applicant shall be notified to appear for an examination. Within 30 days from the date of the examination, the Board shall inform the applicant in writing whether or not he has qualified, and, if the applicant has qualified, that it is ready to issue the appropriate~~ a certificate in the category for which application was made, subject to the applicant's compliance with any additional provisions outlined in the requirements of subsection (F) of this section.

(E) Applicants who contract in violation of this act before certification by the Board or passing the examination may be disqualified upon a majority vote of the Board. Applicants violating examination and examination review rules such as unauthorized removal of examinations or questions from exam room, or cheating during examinations also may be disqualified by a majority vote of the Board.

(F) As a prerequisite to issuance of a certificate, the Board shall require the applicant to submit satisfactory evidence that he has obtained public liability insurance and a license bond in amounts to be determined by the Board. The certificate shall then be issued forthwith, but this subsection does not apply to the issuance or renewal of inactive certificates.

(G) If an applicant for an original certificate, after having been notified to do so, does not appear for examination within 60 days from the date of filing his application, the fee paid by him shall be credited to the Board as an earned fee. New application for a certificate shall be accompanied by another application fee fixed by the Board.

(H) When a certificate holder desires to engage in contracting in any area of the county, within or without a municipality, as a prerequisite therefore, he shall only be required to exhibit to the local building official, tax collector,

or other person in charge of the issuance of licenses and building permits in the area, evidence of holding a current certificate accompanied by the fee for the occupational license and building permit required of other persons.

(I) A certified journeyman shall only be required to hold a current certificate of competency in order to engage in his trade as a journeyman in any municipality or unincorporated area within Palm Beach County.

(J) The certificate shall not be transferable.

(K) The Board may adopt rules prescribing procedures for the certification of contractors and journeymen by reciprocal agreement.

(L) Upon the effective date of this act, any person licensed or otherwise permitted to engage in business as a contractor by reciprocal agreements in any municipality or any unincorporated area of Palm Beach County may continue to engage in business as a contractor in the particular municipality or municipalities or unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County in which he is presently engaged in business without taking the examination under this act, but he shall not be permitted to engage in business as a contractor in other areas of Palm Beach County unless he first obtains a certificate from the Board or satisfies the requirements of such municipality or unincorporated area.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2026.