



HOUSE BILL 763: Neighbor State License/CE Reductions.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re- refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 17, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Zenger, Tyson, Moss, Pless	Prepared by:	Aaron McGlothlin Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to Third Edition H763-CSCC-15		

OVERVIEW: *The PCS to House Bill 763 would: (i) provide occupational licensure recognition for individuals licensed in some neighboring states who establish residency in North Carolina, with some exceptions; (ii) generally reduce by fifty percent on an annualized basis the amount of continuing education hours that certain occupational licensing boards could require as a condition for licensure renewal; (iii) require certain occupational licensing boards to offer online course options for earning continuing education credits; and (iv) make other miscellaneous changes related to continuing education requirements.*

The PCS changes the Third Edition by: (i) adding additional boards that would be exempt from the neighboring state licensure recognition provisions; (ii) incorporating a modified version of S451 (Occupational/Professional Licensing Relief) that includes additional boards that would be subject to the fifty percent reduction in continuing education requirements; and (iii) adding two new continuing education provisions related to online course offerings and credits recognized by multiple boards.

CURRENT LAW / BILL ANALYSIS:

PART I. NEIGHBORING STATE LICENSURE RECOGNITION

Chapter 93B governs occupational licensing boards and State agency licensing boards. G.S. 93B-1 defines occupational licensing boards as "any board, committee, commission, or other agency in North Carolina which is established for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of persons into, and/or the conduct of persons within, a particular profession or occupation, and which is authorized to issue licenses." State agency licensing boards are defined as "any State agency staffed by full-time State employees, which as part of their regular functions issue licenses."

Section 1(a) of the PCS would create a new section in Chapter 93B for licensure recognition for individuals licensed in neighboring states. The new section would apply to all occupation licensing boards and State agency licensing boards except the following:

- Any healthcare practitioner licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- Veterinarians.
- Architects.
- Attorneys.
- Certified Public Accountants.
- Practitioners licensed by the North Carolina Pesticide Board.
- Engineers.

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Director



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An occupational licensing board or State agency licensing board would issue a license, certification, or registration to any application who establishes residents in North Carolina and satisfies all the following:

- The applicant is currently licensed, certified, or registered in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia in the discipline applied for at the same or substantially equivalent practice level, as determined by the occupational licensing board of State agency licensing board.
- The applicant has been licensed, certified, or registered in one or more of these states for at least one year.
- The applicant has passed any exam required for license, certification, or registration in the jurisdiction in which the applicant holds a current license, certification, or registration.
- The applicant is in good standing in all jurisdictions in the United States in which the applicant holds or has ever held a license, certification, or registration for which the applicant is seeking.
- The applicant has not voluntarily surrendered a license, certification, or registration or had one revoked in any jurisdiction in the United States due to unprofessional conduct related to the profession of the license, certification, or registration.
- The applicant demonstrates competency in the profession through methods determined by the board.
- The applicant does not have any active or pending disciplinary actions from an occupational licensing board or agency in another jurisdiction in the United States.
- The applicant does not have a disqualifying criminal history record, as determined by the occupational licensing board or State agency licensing board and related provisions of law.
- The applicant has paid all fees.

Each occupational licensing board and State agency licensing board would have to publish on its website a list of specific criteria or requirements for licensure, certification, or registration by the board under this new section and any necessary documentation required.

Section 1(b) would provide that, beginning October 1, 2026, each licensing board subject to new G.S. 93B-15.3 is required to include the number of individuals who applied for, received, or were denied licensure, certification, or registration under new G.S. 93B-15.3, in the annual report to the Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee required by G.S. 93B-2.

This section would become effective October 1, 2025, and would apply to applications for licensure, certification, or registration received on or after that date.

PART II. REDUCTION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN BOARDS THAT ARE SET BY RULE

The General Assembly has enacted laws establishing occupational licensing boards (OLB) for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of persons into, and the conduct of persons within, a particular profession or occupation. Licensees are often required by statute or an OLB's administrative rule to satisfy continuing education (CE) requirements as a condition of renewing their license to practice a particular profession or occupation.

Part II of the bill would direct certain occupational licensing boards (covered boards) to reduce the amount of CE hours required under the board's respective administrative rules by fifty percent. To

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implement this reduction, each covered board could either: (i) reduce the required number of CE hours by 50% for each license renewal cycle, or (ii) keep the same number of required CE hours but double the amount of time allowed to complete the CE hours.

The reduced continuing education requirements provided for by this bill would not apply in situations where it would have the effect of invalidating an accreditation, Interstate Compact, or federal law or rule for a type of license, certification, or permit of a covered board. Covered boards would be required to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee by October 1, 2025 indicating any invalidation or conflict that would occur by reducing any continuing education requirements, and proposing recommendations for legislation to reduce continuing education requirements.

Part II would apply to the following covered boards:

- Board of Landscape Architects.
- Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists.
- State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.
- Board for Licensing of Geologists.
- Board of Athletic Trainer Examiners.
- Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.
- Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission.
- Private Protective Services Board.
- Board of Architects and Registered Interior Designers.
- State Board of Refrigeration Contractors.
- Water Treatment Facility Operators Board of Certification.
- Pesticide Board.
- Locksmith Licensing Board.
- Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners.
- Appraisal Board.
- Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board.
- Environmental Management Commission, as it applies to the following:
 - Water Pollution Control Facility Operators.
 - Solid Waste Management Facility Operators.
- Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.
- Recreational Therapy Licensure Board.
- State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.
- Structural Pest Control Committee.
- Commission for Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, as applied to forensic evaluators.

PART III. REDUCTION IN CONTINUING EDUCATION OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS SPECIFIED BY STATUTE

Part III of the bill would make various statutory changes that would reduce the number of continuing education hours that certain OLBs could require from licensees. These boards could set CE requirements based on either the shorter or longer renewal period, as provided below:

- Licensing Board for General Contractors:
 - Qualifying party of a licensee would be required to complete 5 CE hours per year, or 10 hours every two years (currently 8 hours per year).
- Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board:
 - Licensee would have to complete 3.5 CE hours per year, or 7 hours every two years (currently 7 hours per year).
- Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Board:
 - Licensee would have to complete 5 CE hours per year, or 10 hours every two years (currently 10 hours per year).

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- Auctioneers Commission:
 - Licensee would have to complete up to 3 CE hours per year, or up to 6 hours every two years (currently up to 6 hours per year).
- Real Estate Commission:
 - Licensee would have to complete 4 CE hours per year, or 8 hours every two years (currently 8 hours per year).
- Alarm Systems Licensing Board:
 - Licensee would have to complete at least 3 CE hours every two years, or 6 hours every four-year period (current Board rules require 6 CE hours every two years).
 - Registrant would have to complete at least 1.5 CE hours every two years, or 3 hours every four-year period (current Board rules require 3 CE hours every two years).
- Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners:
 - Electrologist Licensee would have to complete at least 5 CE hours per year, or 10 hours every two years (current Board rules generally require 10 CE hours per year).
 - Laser Hair Practitioner would have to complete at least 5 CE hours per year, or 10 hours every two years (currently 10 hours per year).
- Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners:
 - Licensed teachers, estheticians, natural hair care specialists, and manicurists would have to complete 4 CE hours per year, or 8 hours every two years (currently 8 hours per year).
 - Licensed cosmetologist would have to complete 12 CE hours every three-year licensing cycle, or 24 hours over a six-year period (currently 24 hours every three-year licensing cycle).
- Board of Registration for Foresters:
 - Registered forester would have to complete up to 6 CE hours per year, or up to 12 hours every two years (currently up to 12 hours per year).
- State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners:
 - Board would be authorized to adopt rules requiring between 10-20 CE hours per year, or between 20-40 CE hours every two years (currently 20-40 CE hours per year).
- State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors:
 - Licensee would have to complete up to 5 CE hours per year, or 10 hours every two years (currently up to 10 hours per year).
- Well Contractors Certification Commission:
 - Certified official would have to complete up to 3 CE hours per year, or up to 6 hours every two years (currently up to 6 hours every year).
- Code Officials Qualification Board:
 - Certified official would have to complete up to 3 CE hours per year, or 6 hours every two years (currently 6 hours per year).
- Home Inspector Licensure Board:
 - Board would be authorized to require between 6-10 CE hours per year, or between 12-20 hours every two years (currently 12-20 hours per year).
- Manufactured Housing Board:
 - Licensee would have to complete up to 4 CE hours per year, or 8 hours every two years (currently 8 hours per year).
- Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board:
 - Applicant for provisional license would have to complete 1 CE hours per year, or 2 hours every two years (currently 2 hours per year).
- Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission:

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- Certified operator would have to complete up to 3 CE hours per year, or 6 hours every two years (currently 6 hours per year).
- On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board:
 - Certified contractors or inspectors would have to complete up to 6 CE hours per year, or 12 hours every two years (currently 12 hours per year).

PART IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ON CONTINUOUS EDUCATION

Section 4.1 would provide that Part IV applies to each occupational licensing board subject to Part II or Part III of this act.

Section 4.2 would allow each occupational licensing board to adopt or amend its administrative rules to allow licensees to carry over CE hours completed from one compliance window to the next, provided that: (i) any carryover policies would not undermine the legislative intent of reducing CE requirements by 50% on an annualized basis; (ii) licensees would not be allowed to double count their CE hours to satisfy requirements for separate renewal cycles; and (iii) any CE hours earned prior to the effective date of this act that are carried forward to a future period must be treated uniformly for all licensees similarly situated.

Section 4.3 would prohibit occupational licensing boards from refusing to recognize a licensee's CE credit hours on the sole basis that those credits would be earned for completing a training or educational course from which the licensee had already received CE credits from a separate occupational licensing board.

Section 4.4 would require each occupational licensing board to offer an online course option to complete some or all of the continuing education credits required by the board. In order to receive CE credits from an online course, a licensee would have to submit an affidavit attesting that they had personally completed the course and any evaluations without undue assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act would become effective July 1, 2027, and apply to applications for and renewals of licensure, certification, and permits on or after that date.