



SENATE BILL 55: Continuing Education for General Contractors.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 9, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. Gunn, Newton, D. Davis	Prepared by:	Cindy Avrette
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 55¹ would establish a continuing education requirement for general contractors of eight hours a year, effective for licenses renewed on or after January 1, 2020.*

CURRENT LAW: There is no continuing education requirement for renewal of a general contractor's license. To be licensed as a general contractor, an applicant, or an individual identified by an applicant as its qualifier, must pass an examination to establish that the applicant has an ability to read plans and specifications and has a proficient knowledge of the contracting business. The license, once granted, must be renewed annually by paying the requisite fee amount.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 55 would establish a continuing education requirement for renewal of the following general contracting licenses: (i) building contractor; (ii) residential contractor; and (iii) unclassified license classification. If an entity holds the license, and has multiple qualifiers, at least one qualifier of the licensee must compete the continuing education requirement. A licensee may request to be inactive. An inactive licensee must continue to pay the annual renewal fee, but does not need to complete continuing education; however, during his period, the contractor's license is invalid. The licensee may seek reinstatement by completing the required hours of continuing education. The required number of hours may vary depending on the length of time between inactive status and reinstatement.

The continuing education requirement would be for eight hours of instruction a year. Two of the eight hours would be a mandatory course approved by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors and taught by persons who attended a training program established, approved, and administered by the Board. The remaining six hours would be elective courses whose materials and instructors have been evaluated, approved, and accredited by the Board.

The Board may establish fees to administer the continuing education program. The fee charged to a sponsor of a course to review and approve the course materials may not exceed \$25 per credit hour for the initial review and \$12.50 for the annual renewal of a course previously approved. The fee payable by a course provider for each person completing an approved course may not exceed \$5.00 per credit hour.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The continuing education requirement would become applicable for licenses renewed on or after January 1, 2020. The continuing education courses may be provided live or by video of a previously recorded presentation. Effective for licenses renewed on or after January 1, 2021, the approved courses may also be offered by Internet transmission.

Jeff Hudson, counsel to Senate Agric/Env/Natural Resources, substantially contributed to this summary.

¹ As introduced, this bill was identical to H162, as introduced by Reps. Potts, Brody, Howard, Clemmons, which is currently in House Regulatory Reform.

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