



SENATE BILL 55: Continuing Education for General Contractors.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 9, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Trina Griffin Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-72		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-72 establishes a continuing education requirement for general contractors of eight hours per year, effective for licenses renewed on or after January 1, 2020. Of the eight hours, two hours will be a mandatory course and six hours will be elective courses, all of which must be approved by the Board.*

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: S.L. 2019-72 establishes 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 complete 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 will be for eight hours of instruction a year. Two of the eight hours must 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 are 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 is 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.

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