



SENATE BILL 451: Occupational/Professional Licensing Relief.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re- refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 16, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. Moffitt, Jarvis, McInnis	Prepared by:	Aaron McGlothlin
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 451 would 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.*

CURRENT LAW / BACKGROUND: 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.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Part I 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 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 I 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
- Locksmith Licensing Board
- Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners
- Pesticide Board
- Appraisal Board
- Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board

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Part II 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).
- 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).

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- 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).

Part III would allow each occupational licensing board subject to this act 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill would become effective October 1, 2025, and apply to applications for and renewals of licensure, certification, and permits on or after that date.