

Rules of Arkansas State Board of Registration For Professional Geologists

Section 1

Administration

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1-1 | Organization of the Board |
| 1-1 | Nominations to the Board |
| 1-2 | Removal from the Board |
| 1-3 | Meetings |
| 1-4 | Officers |
| 1-5 | Secretary-Treasurer |
| 1-6 | Seal |

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2022

BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

~~1-1~~ Organization of the Board

~~(1) The State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists shall administer the provisions of the Act. The Board shall consist of five geologists and one public member, appointed by the Governor, approved by the Secretary of State and confirmed by the Senate, and the Director of the Arkansas Geologic Commission or his designated agent as a permanent ex-officio member.~~

~~(2) Each member of the Board shall be a citizen of the United States, and shall have been a resident of this State for the two years immediately preceding his appointment. Each of the first appointed geologist members of the Board shall be a qualified geologist; each subsequent geologist member of the Board shall be a geologist registered under the Act. Members of the following professional categories shall be represented on the Board: One academic geologist, one governmental geologist, one salaried company geologist, one independent or consultant geologist, one geologist at large, plus the director of the Arkansas Geologic Commission or his designated agent as a permanent ex-officio member.~~

~~(3) The initial members of the Board, with the exception of the ex-officio member, shall be appointed to serve for a term of one to five years. Appointed members of the Board shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which they were appointed and until their successors have been appointed and qualified. On the expiration of the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed in like manner by the Governor for a term of five years.~~

~~(4) The members of said Board shall, before entering the discharge of their duty, subscribe to and file with the Secretary of State the constitutional oath of officers, whereupon the Secretary of State shall issue to said appointee, certificates of appointment.~~

~~(5) No person shall serve as member of the Board for more than one consecutive five-year term.~~

~~1-2~~1 Nominations to the Board

The Board may determine procedures whereby recommendations may be made to the Governor for geological member nominations to the Board.

~~1-3~~2 Removal from the Board

The Governor may remove any member of the Board for misconduct, incompetence, neglect of duty, or any other sufficient causes. Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Governor as provided for herein.

1-43 Meetings

(1) The Board shall hold at least two regular meetings each year. Four members shall constitute a quorum. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be necessary to transact business. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the Secretary upon the written request of the Chairman or any two members, by giving each member of the Board at least seven ~~days notice~~ days' notice of such meetings and the time and place at which such meeting is to be held. Notice of all meetings shall be given as ~~may be provided in the regulations~~ required by the Administrative Procedures Act.

(2) The Board shall follow Robert's Rules of Order with the exception that the Chairman and the ex-officio member shall be full voting members. However, the Chairman shall not vote unless there is a tie vote among the other Board members.

~~(3) The Board meetings shall be open to the public, and the Board shall keep a public record of its proceedings, except when the Board goes into executive session. Matters which may be considered during executive session include discussion of applications and other personal information submitted by applicants, information, favorable or unfavorable, submitted as a reference concerning an applicant, or to deliberate with respect to an application, complaint, or a disciplinary proceeding.~~

1-5 Officers

~~The Board shall annually elect a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint committees and perform the usual duties of his office, and the Vice Chairman shall perform all such duties in the absence of the Chairman. The Chairman cannot be elected to succeed himself or herself for another term immediately following a term in the chairmanship.~~

1-64 Secretary Treasurer

(1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Secretary of the Board (hereinafter known as Secretary) and, in addition to his/her duties as prescribed by law, shall perform such other administrative duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

(2) The Secretary shall keep a true record of all proceedings of the Board and send copies thereof to its members. He/she shall keep a record of all examination papers and other evidence of qualification submitted by each applicant for a Certificate of Registration, an official roster of all registered geologists, and of the renewals of such registrations. He/she shall give notice in writing of the expiration of any registration to the holder and to the Board, and make a proper entry on the roster showing the expiration of such registration. He/she shall send notice of annual renewal of registration fees to registrants at least forty-five days prior to expiration. He/she shall receive all fees and costs and give receipt for the same. He/she shall give a general report at the regular Board meeting on all transactions since the previous meeting. A written financial report shall be offered to the Board at least quarterly.

1-7 Seal

~~The Board shall adopt a seal for its own use and shall have the words "Arkansas Board of Registration for Professional Geologists" inscribed thereon, and the Secretary shall have the care and custody thereof.~~

Section 2

Purpose

2-1 Purpose

In order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare, the practice of geology in this State has been declared to be subject to ~~regulation~~ oversight in the public interest. These Rules are adopted in order to introduce qualifying criteria in the professional field. Such action recommends itself through benefits to the safety, health and property of the people of Arkansas and to the promotion of the public welfare. These benefits are in the fields of geology as related to engineering, ground water, mineral exploration and development, geologic hazards, environmental geology, the further development of the science of geology, and other geologic matters of concern to the people of this State.

SECTION 3

DEFINITIONS

3-1 Definitions

The definitions used herein are as follows:

- (1) "Act" means the Registration of Geologists Act of 1987 (Act 701).
- (2) "Board" means the State Board of Geologist's Examiners and also the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists.
- (3) "Geology" means that science which treats of the earth in general; investigations of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials which compose it, and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the benefit of mankind.
- (4) "Geologist" means a person engaged in the practice of geology.
- (5) "Public practice of geology" means any professional service, work, or activity and its performance requiring formal geological education, training, experience and the understanding and application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and geological sciences as may be related to those services including, but not limited to, consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, interpretation, remediation, expert technical testimony, planning the use of land and water, protection of groundwater to ensure adequate quality and quantity for present and future generations; prevention and remediation of contamination of the earth, earth materials and water from improper disposal or accidental spills; determination of the suitability and risks in containment and disposal of wastes and hazardous materials including but not limited to landfills, storage tanks, and injection wells; development and implementation of subsurface site investigation work plans associated with solid and hazardous waste sites, underground and aboveground storage tank sites, environmental site assessments, comprehensive site assessments, etc.; design and installation of groundwater monitoring systems, interpretation of groundwater data, interpretation of subsurface data collected during environmental site assessments or comprehensive site assessments; determination of aquifer flow characteristics (i.e pump test, slug test etc.); interpretations of surface and borehole geophysical surveys; sighting of boreholes, depth of wells to be drilled, depth of casing and grouting requirements for the construction of monitoring wells or other borings into the earth that may affect one or more aquifers, or other geologic phenomena; geologic surveying and mapping including making measurements and gathering data related to the physical features of the earth including subsurface data including the depiction of such information into geologic graphics, data, maps, plans, reports, descriptions, or projects and including preparing, creating, and/or modifying computerized, electronic data related to the activities contained within this section; inspection of geological or related work any of which includes or embraces any services, activities, or work public or private, which may be adversely or otherwise be affected or influenced by geological processes including but not limited to utilities, projects, communication systems, transportation systems or any other anthropogenic features, and insofar as they involve protecting and safeguarding the public's health, safety, property, and welfare, and including such other professional services as may be necessary in the planning, progress and completion of any such geological services. A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice geology publicly, within the meaning and intent of the Act, who practices any branch of the profession of geology and who by verbal claim, sign advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a geologist, or through the use of some other title implies that he is a geologist or that he is registered under the Act; or who holds himself/herself out as able to perform, or who does perform any geological service or work recognized as geology.
- (6) A "qualified geologist" means a person who possesses all the qualifications specified in the Act for registration, except that he is not registered.
- (7) "Registered Geologist" means a person who is currently registered as a geologist under the provisions of the Act.
- (8) The term "responsible charge of work" means the independent control and direction by the use of initiative, skill, and independent judgment of geological work or the supervision of such work.
- (9) A "subordinate" means any person who assists a Registered Geologist or a Registered Engineer in the practice of geology without assuming the responsible charge of work.
- (10) "Geologist In Training" means a person who fulfills the academic and other requirements for registration as a geologist

and has passed Part I of the written examination required for registration, but has not had the professional experience required to qualify as a Registered Geologist. ~~“Geologist-In-Training” applicants applying prior to the May 1, 1989, closing date and meeting qualified requirements received approval by the Board for waiver of examination through the “Grandfather Clause” of Act 701.~~

SECTION 4

REGISTRATION TO PRACTICE UNDER TITLE OF GEOLOGIST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| |
|---|
| 4-1 Examination |
| 4-2 Reciprocity |
| 4-3 Temporary and Provisional Licensure |
| 4-4 Automatic Licensure |
| 4-5 Pre-Licensure Criminal Background Check |
| 4-6 Criminal Background Waiver Request |
| 4-7 Certificate of Registration |

4-1 Prohibited Acts

~~(1) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a registered geologist or subordinate under the direction of a registered geologist to prepare any geologic plans, reports or documents in which the performance is related to the public welfare or safeguarding of life, health, property or the environment.~~

~~(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to publicly practice, or offer to publicly practice geology in this State, as defined in the provisions of the Act, or to use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a registered geologist, unless such person has been duly registered or is exempted under the provisions of the Act. The right to engage in the public practice of geology shall be deemed a personal right, based on the qualifications of the individual as evidenced by his Certificate of Registration, and shall not be transferable.~~

~~(3) After July 1, 1988, it shall be unlawful for anyone other than a geologist registered under the Act to stamp or seal any plans, plats, reports or other documents with the seal or stamp of a Registered Geologist or to use in any manner the title, "Registered Geologist", unless registered hereunder.~~

~~(4) It shall be unlawful for any person to affix his signature or to stamp or seal any plans, plats, reports or other documents after the certification of the registrant named thereon has expired or has been suspended or revoked, unless the certificate has been renewed or reissued.~~

~~(5) The above provisions do not apply to:~~

~~(a) Persons while engaged solely in teaching the science of geology or engaged in non-public geologic research in this State.~~

~~(b) Officers and employees of the United States of America or the State of Arkansas practicing solely as such officers or employees.~~

~~(c) Persons employed as geologists by individuals, firms, companies, associations or corporations whose business is other than the public practice of geology and whose business will not affect the public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, property or the environment.~~

~~(d) A subordinate to a geologist registered under the Act insofar as he acts solely in such capacity. This exemption, however, does not permit any such subordinate to practice geology for others in his own right or use the title "Registered Geologist".~~

4-2 Minimum Qualifications-

To be eligible for registration, an applicant shall meet each of the following minimum qualifications:

~~(1) Be of good ethical character.~~

~~(2) Have graduated from an accredited college or university with either a major in geology, engineering geology, geological engineering or an earth science-related major that has been approved by the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. Such a degree will have to consist of the appropriate number of hours of geologic courses that would normally constitute a geology degree and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~(3) Have at least seven years of professional geological work which shall include a minimum of three years of professional geological work under the supervision of a Registered Geologist, except that prior to May 1, 1989, professional geological work shall qualify if it is under the supervision of a qualified geologist, or a minimum of five accumulative years experience in responsible charge of geological work. The following criteria of education and experience qualify as specified toward accumulation of the required seven years of professional geological work:~~

~~(a) Each year of undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years with a Bachelor Degree, and each year of graduate study shall count as a year of training for a two-year maximum with either a Masters Degree or a Doctor of Philosophy Degree.~~

~~(b) Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, graduate courses, individually or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of four years toward meeting the requirements for at least seven years of professional geological work as set forth above.~~

~~(c) The Board may consider in lieu of the above professional geological work as set out in (b) above, the cumulative total of professional geological work or geological research of persons teaching at the college or university level, provided such work or research can be demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to the professional requirements stated above. Separate experience time is not allowed for teaching while it is a part of the curriculum during normal pursuit of graduate studies.~~

~~(d) The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by his having performed the work in a responsible position as determined by the Board. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the Board in accordance with standards set forth in regulations adopted by it, and~~

~~(e) The applicant shall successfully pass such examinations established by the Board designed to demonstrate that he/she has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.~~

4-3 Application

~~(1) An application for registration as a geologist shall be made under oath, shall show the applicant's education and a detailed summary of his geological work. The application shall be accompanied by an application fee fixed by the Board and a certified transcript of all undergraduate or postgraduate college credits.~~

~~(2) Application for registration as a geologist shall be:~~

~~(a) Filed on a form prescribed by the Board.~~

~~(b) Filed at the office of the Board. An application mailed to the Board shall be deemed filed on the date shown by the post office cancellation mark appearing on the envelope.~~

~~(c) Subscribed and certified under penalty of law.~~

~~(3) An application which is not submitted in proper and complete form will not be accepted by the Board and will be returned by the Secretary with a statement of the reason therefore.~~

~~(4) Application under the "Grandfather Clause" ceased on May 1, 1989.~~

4-3-1 Applications from Licensees of other states

~~An application for registration received from a person who holds registration in a state with which we have a reciprocity, comity or cooperative licensure agreement which complies with Section 4-5, shall be exempt from further examination requirements.~~

4-1 Examinations

(1) Written examinations.

~~(a) The regular written examination for registration as a geologist shall consist of the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) Subject Test for geology through December 31, 1997.~~

~~(b) Examination schedules and fees are available from:~~

Graduate Record Examinations

Educational Testing Service

P. O. Box 6000

Princeton, NJ 08541-6000

(c) ~~Beginning January 1, 1997~~ the regular written examination for registration as a professional geologist in Arkansas shall consist of both parts of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) test.

**National Association of State Boards of Geology
(ASBOG)
P.O. Box 11591
Columbia, SC 29211-1591**

(2) Examination facilities.

~~(a) The GRE will be administered at facilities and on dates specified by the GRE Corporation through December 31, 1997.~~

~~(b)~~ (a) The ASBOG exam will be administered at facilities and on dates specified by the Board, but must be offered at least once per year.

(3) Rules and Regulations

~~(a) Examinees of the GRE test must abide by all rules and regulations of Graduate Record Examinations.~~

~~(b)~~ Examinees of the ASBOG test must abide by all the rules and regulations of ASBOG and the rules of the Board.

(4) Requirements for passing examination.

~~(a) Every applicant receiving a scaled score of 550 or higher on the GRE examination shall be deemed to have passed if test was taken within six years of application for registration. If the test was taken more than six years prior to application, the Board may accept the test based on the applicant's submission of work history.~~

~~(b)~~ (a) Every applicant receiving a passing score on the ASBOG exam (Part I and Part II) shall be deemed to have passed. If the test was taken for registration in another state prior to January 1, 1997, the Board may accept the test score based on applicant's submission of work history.

4-2 Reciprocity

A person registered to engage in the practice of geology, on the basis of comparable licensing requirements issued to him by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, and who in the opinion of the Board otherwise meets the requirements of the Act based on verified evidence, may upon application, be registered without further examination, provided that the state or agency, presently holding licensing requirements on the applicant, ~~has accepted a reciprocity agreement between it and the Arkansas Board, or by general reciprocity agreement between all applicable states~~ has similar requirements as those found at Ark. Code Ann. § 17-32-304 and the applicant has not had a license revoked for an act of bad faith or a violation of law, rules or ethics.

4-3 Temporary or Provisional Licensure

- (1) The Board shall issue a temporary and provisional license immediately upon receipt of an application, the required fee, and the documentation required under section 4-2 of these rules.
- (2) The temporary and provisional license shall be effective until the Board makes a decision on the application, unless the Board determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements in section 4-2 in which case the temporary and provisional license shall be immediately revoked.
- (3) An applicant may provide the rest of the documentation required above in order to receive a license, or the applicant may only provide the information necessary for the issuance of a temporary and provisional license.

4-4 Automatic Licensure for Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses

- (1) As used in this subsection, "uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the United States Uniformed Services who was discharged from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable.
- (2) As used in this subsection, "automatic licensure" means the granting of occupational licensure without an individual's having met occupational licensure requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational licensing entity;
- (3) The Board shall grant automatic licensure to an individual who is the holder in good standing of a license with a similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of the U.S. and is:
 - a) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
 - b) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; or
 - c) The spouse of:
 - (i) A person under (3) (a.) or (b.) above.
 - (ii) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; or
 - (iii) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state.

- (4) The Board shall grant such automatic licensure upon receipt of all the below:
 - a) Payment of the initial licensure fee;
 - b) Evidence that the individual holds a license with a similar scope of practice in another state; and
 - c) Evidence that the applicant is a qualified applicant under Section (3).
- (5) The expiration date of a license for a deployed uniform service member or spouse will be extended for one hundred and eighty (180) days following the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

4-5 Pre-Licensure Criminal Background Checks

- (1) Pursuant to A.C.A. § 17-3-101, et. seq., an individual may petition for a pre-licensure determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from licensure and whether a waiver may be obtained.
- (2) The individual must obtain the pre-licensure criminal background check petition form from the Board.
- (3) The Board will respond with a decision in writing to a completed petition within a reasonable time.
- (4) The Board's response will state the reason(s) for the decision.
- (5) All decisions of the Board in response to the petition will be determined by the information provided by the individual.
- (6) Any decision made by the Board in response to a pre-licensure criminal background check petition is not subject to appeal.
- (7) The Board will retain a copy of the petition and response and it will be reviewed during the formal application process.

4-6 Criminal Background Waiver Request

- (1) If an individual has been convicted of an offense listed in A.C.A. § 17-3-102(a) or (e) the Board may waive disqualification of a potential applicant or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:
 - a) An affected applicant for a license; or
 - b) An individual holding a license subject to revocation.
- (2) The Board may grant a waiver upon consideration of the following, without limitation:
 - a) The age at which the offense was committed;
 - b) The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - c) The length of time since the offense was committed;
 - d) Subsequent work history since the offense was committed;
 - e) Employment references since the offense was committed;

- f) Character references since the offense was committed;
 - g) Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
 - h) Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.
- (3) A request for a waiver, if made by an applicant, must be in writing and accompany the completed application and fees.
 - (4) The Board will respond with a decision in writing and will state the reasons for the decision.
 - (5) An appeal of a determination under this section will be subject to the Administrative Procedures Act §25-15-201 et seq.

4-7 Certificate of Registration

(1) The Board shall issue a Certificate of Registration, upon payment of the registration fee as provided to any applicant who, in the opinion of the Board, has satisfactorily met all requirements of these Rules ~~and Regulations~~. Certificates of Registration shall show the full name of the registrant, the date of registration, give a serial number, and be signed by the Chairman of the Board and by the Secretary under seal of the Board. The issuance of a Certificate of Registration by the Board shall be prima facie evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Registered Geologist, as long as the certificate is not revoked or expired. Upon payment of the fee, the Board shall issue a pocket-sized Registration Card showing name, serial number, and expiration date.

(2) A new Certificate of Registration to replace any certificate lost, destroyed or mutilated will be issued upon payment of a fee of \$10.00.

4-7 Seal

~~Each registrant upon issuance of a certificate will be provided with a seal bearing the registrant's name and the legends "Registered Professional Geologist" and "State of Arkansas"~~

4-8 Reissuance of Certificate

~~The Board, by majority vote of the quorum, may reissue a Certificate of Registration to any person whose certificate has been revoked, upon written application to the Board by the applicant, showing good cause to justify such issuance.~~

4-9 Records

~~(1) The Secretary shall keep a register of all applications for registration.~~

~~(2) The register shall show:~~

- ~~(a) the name, age, and residency of each applicant;~~
- ~~(b) the date of application;~~
- ~~(c) the place of business of the applicant;~~
- ~~(d) his/her education and other qualifications;~~
- ~~(e) whether or not an examination was required;~~
- ~~(f) whether or not the applicant was registered;~~

-
~~(g) whether or not a Certificate of Registration was granted;~~

-
~~(h) the dates of the action by the Board; and~~

-
~~(i) such other information as may be deemed necessary by the Board. All official records of the Board, or affidavits by the Secretary as to the content of such records, shall be prima facie evidence of all matters to be kept therein.~~

~~(3) Except as provided herein, the following shall be treated as confidential and need not be disclosed:~~

-
~~(a) Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants, except to the applicant, the Board and its staff.~~

~~(b) Information, favorable or unfavorable, submitted by applicants, except to the applicant, the Board and its staff.~~

~~(c) The deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, a complaint or a disciplinary proceeding.~~

-

SECTION 5

PRACTICE AFTER REGISTRATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

5-1 Roster

5-2 Address Change

~~5-1 Practice of Geology~~

~~(1) The Act does not prohibit one or more geologists from practicing through the medium of a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation. In a partnership or corporation whose primary activity consists of geological services, at least one partner or officer shall be a registered geologist.~~

~~(2) The Act does not prevent or prohibit an individual, firm, company, association or corporation whose principal business is other than the public practice of geology from employing a non-registered geologist to perform nonpublic geological services necessary to the conduct of their business.~~

~~(3) Furthermore, the Act shall not be construed to prevent or to affect:~~

~~(a) The practice of any profession or trade for which a license is required under any other law of this State.~~

~~(b) The practice of or offer to practice professional geology by a person not a resident of and having no established place of business in this State, provided such person is duly licensed or registered to practice such profession in another state where the requirements for a Certificate of Registration or license are not lower than those specified in the Act for obtaining the registration required for such work.~~

~~(i) Such a person shall apply to the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists in writing. The request shall include the location, estimated length of time to complete the project, state in which he/she holds registration and a resume detailing work experience~~

~~(ii) After payment of a fee established by rule, he/she may be granted a written permit for a prescribed period of time of less than one (1) year to perform a specific practice of geology. No right to perform other practices of geology shall accrue to a person granted a written permit under this section.~~

~~5-2 Use of Seal~~

~~All drawings, reports, plats, or other geologic papers or documents involving the public geologic work as defined in the Act which shall have been prepared or approved by a registered geologist or a subordinate employee under his direction for the use of or for delivery to any person or for public record within this State shall be signed by him and impressed with said seal or the seal of a nonresident practicing under the provisions of the Act, either of which shall indicate his responsibility for them.~~

5-~~31~~ Roster of Professional Geologists

A roster of registered geologists will be posted on the Board's website bi-annually. The Secretary shall publish a roster showing the names and places of business of all registered geologists. Copies of this roster may be mailed to each person so registered upon request, and will be placed on file with the Secretary of State, and furnished to the public upon request and payment of an at-cost fee established by the Board. An addendum with any new registrants and all changes with existing registrants may be sent out annually to each person that is registered upon request and will be provided to the Secretary of State bi-annually.

5-~~42~~ Address Change

Each person who is an applicant for registration, a geologist-in-training, or a holder of a Certificate of Registration from the Board shall notify the Board at its Little Rock, office within sixty (60) days of any and all changes giving both his old and new address and telephone number.

Section 6

Geologist-in-Training

Table of Contents

| |
|--|
| 6-1 Explanation |
| 6-2 Minimum Qualifications: <u>Education</u> |
| 6-3 Application |

6-1 Explanation

A geologist who has not had the professional geologic experience required to qualify as a registered geologist may apply as a Geologist-in-Training. Upon completion of experience requirements, the applicant may then apply for registration as a geologist.

6-2 Minimum Qualifications: Education

To be eligible for obtaining a Geologist-in-Training classification, an applicant shall either ~~meet the following minimum qualifications:~~

~~(1) Be of good ethical character~~

~~(2) Have have graduated from an accredited college or university with either a major in geology, engineering geology, or geological engineering, or have completed thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours or the equivalent in geological science courses leading to a major in geology, of which at least thirty-six (36) quarter hours or the equivalent were taken in the third and/or fourth year or in graduate courses.~~

~~(3) Successfully pass such examinations established by the Board designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.~~

~~(4) Filed for Geologist in Training before May 1, 1989 under the Grandfather Clause of Act 701 and accepted by the Board. Upon completion and proof of experience, the applicant may apply for registration without further examination.~~

6-3 Application

~~(1) An application for Geologist in Training classification shall be made under oath and shall show the applicant's education. The application shall be accompanied by an application fee fixed by the Board, and a certified transcript of all undergraduate or post-graduate college credits.~~

(2) Application forms for classification as Geologist-in-Training are the same as those for registration as a geologist. The applicant for Geologist-in-Training classification shall complete the entire application except for describing professional experience and shall not include professional references. Upon completion of experience requirements at a later date, the applicant shall then notify the Board. He/she will be sent another application form upon which he may detail his professional geologic experience as required for registration as a professional geologist. All reference letters as required in the application, except those pertaining to professional competence, should be forwarded for Geologist-in-Training classification. Reference letters pertaining to professional competence shall be forwarded at such time as the applicant applies for registration as a professional geologists.

(3) Application for classification as a Geologist-in-Training shall be:

- (a) filed on a form prescribed by the Board,
 - (b) filed at the office of the Board, and
 - (c) subscribed and certified under penalty of law.
-

(4) Examination

~~Upon passing the GRE test prior to December 31, 1997 as shown in Section 4-4 the applicant shall receive the Geologist-in-Training classification.~~

Upon passing Part I (Fundamentals of Geology) of the ASBOG test ~~after January 1, 1997~~ in Section 4-~~41~~, the applicant shall receive the Geologist-in-Training classification. If the applicant has taken Part I of the ASBOG test prior to January 1, 1997 for registration in another state the Board may accept the test score based on a completed application.

SECTION 7

FEES AND COSTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 7-1 Method of Payment
- 7-2 Expiration of Registration; Penalty Period; Reinstatement
- 7-3 Date of Filing Fee
- 7-4 Work Force Expansion Act Fee Waiver

7-1 Method of Payment

All fees required by the provisions of the Act and the Rules of the Board shall be transmitted by money order, bank draft or check payable to the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. No fees are refundable.

~~7-2 Schedule of Fees~~

~~The following schedule of fees is adopted:~~

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Application for Registered Geologist | \$20.00 |
| 2. Initial registration | \$60.00 |
| 3. Annual Registration renewal fee | \$60.00 |
| 4. Replacement Certificate fee | \$10.00 |
| 5. Geologist in Training Certificate | \$10.00 |
| 6. Geologist in Training application and annual fee | \$20.00 |
| 7. Temporary Registration-Work Permit | \$500.00 |

7-2. Expiration of Registration; Penalty Period; Reinstatement

The registration shall expire annually on July 1.

Renewal notices to registrants will be mailed 45 days prior to the date of expiration.

Late renewal application submitted during a six-month penalty period following expiration must be accompanied by a fee equal to the renewal fee plus fifty per cent penalty fee up to a maximum penalty for late renewal of five hundred dollars (\$500) per instance. The Board has the right to waive the penalty fee if in the Board's opinion the penalty fee is not

warranted.

Registrations not renewed prior to the end of the six-month penalty period shall not be subject to renewal. Any consideration for registration reinstatement after the six-month penalty period would be at the discretion of the Board and requires submission of a reinstatement application with the required reinstatement fee of twice the renewal fee up to a maximum penalty for late renewal of five hundred dollars (\$500) per instance.

7-3. Date of Filing Fee.

When transmitted through the mail, fees required under provisions of this rule shall be deemed filed on the date shown by the post-office cancellation mark appearing on the envelope containing the fee.

7-4. Work Force Expansion Act Fee Waiver.

The Board shall waive the initial licensing fee if the applicant:

- 1) Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid Program; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program; or the Lifeline Assistance Program;
- 2) Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
- 3) Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

SECTION 8
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
CODE OF ETHICS

8-1 Code of Ethics
8-2 Investigations
8-3 Discipline

8-1 Code of Ethics

(1) Geology is a profession, and the privilege of professional practice requires responsibility as well as professional knowledge on the part of each practitioner. Each Registered Professional Geologist shall be guided by the highest standards of business ethics.

(2) With high regard for the geological profession and recognizing in the Code of Ethics a set of dynamic principles to guide his services to his fellow men and to his profession, with full knowledge of the responsibility of geologists to safeguard health, safety and public welfare, a Registered Professional Geologist:

- (a) shall protect to the fullest extent the public welfare and safety;
 - (b) shall not act in any manner which will tend to bring discredit to the honor and dignity of his profession;
 - (c) shall not undertake any type of work with which he is not competent unless he makes full disclosure of his lack of training and/or experience to the appropriate parties prior to undertaking the work;
 - (d) shall not act for his client or employer other than as a faithful agent or trustee and shall protect to the fullest the interest of his employer and/or client so far as is consistent with the law and his professional obligations and ethics;
 - (e) shall not use undue influence or offer commissions or otherwise solicit professional work improperly;
 - (f) shall not voluntarily disclose information concerning the lawful business affairs or technical processes of a client or employer without his consent, provided that this article does not operate to the detriment of public safety;
 - (g) shall not express an opinion which is not founded upon knowledge and honest conviction nor yield to undue and improper pressure;
 - (h) shall not advertise his work or merit in any manner derogatory to the dignity of the profession;
 - (i) will freely give credit for work done by others to whom credit is due and will refrain from plagiarism in oral and written communications, and not knowingly accept credit rightfully due another geologist;
- (3) It shall be the duty and professional responsibility of every Registered Geologist to uphold these standards of ethics and to encourage other geologists by example and counsel to adhere to this Code. A Registered Geologist found by the Board to be in violation of this Code of Ethics shall be subject to loss of registration.

8-2 Complaints

~~Any person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct against any registrant. Such charges shall be in writing and shall be sworn to by the person or persons making them and shall be filed with the Secretary.~~

8-2 Investigation

The Board shall initiate an investigation at the next Board meeting, either regular or called, of any such complaint and shall

hold a hearing within three calendar months or ninety days after investigation on those complaints which it deems of sufficient merit.

8-3 Discipline

(1) The Board shall have the power to levy civil fines, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the Certificate of Registration of any registrant who is found to have been involved in:

- (a) the practice of any fraud or deceit in obtaining a Certificate of Registration;
- (b) any gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the practice of geology as a professional geologist;
- (c) any felony or crime involving moral turpitude; or
- (d) the commission of any unlawful act as set forth in the Act.

(2) Any such action by the Board in this regard shall be after a hearing is held in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Rules ~~and Regulations~~, in the Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act, [AR Code Annotated § 25-15-201 et seq](#) which are hereby incorporated herein and by reference made a part hereof.

8-5 Misdemeanor

~~(1) Any person who shall publicly practice, or offer to publicly practice geology for others in this State without being registered in accordance with the provisions of the Act, or any person presenting or attempting to use as his own the Certificate of Registration or the seal of another, or any person who shall give any false or forged evidence of any kind to the Board or to any member thereof in obtaining a Certificate of Registration, or any person who shall falsely impersonate any other registrant of like or different name, or any person who shall attempt to use an expired or revoked Certificate of Registration, or practice at any time during a period the Board has suspended or revoked the Certificate of Registration shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.~~

~~(2) As soon as the Board determines that a misdemeanor has occurred, the information will be given to the office of the Attorney General for legal advice and assistance in accordance with Section 28 (b) of Act 701 of 1987.~~

9-1 Procedural Rules

~~The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists hereby adopts by reference as its permanent rules Sections One through Nine of the currently approved rules and any future amendments thereto.~~

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S1/19/21 S1/26/21*
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 78

By: Senators Hill, D. Wallace, T. Garner, Irvin, J. Hendren, J. English, Flippo
By: Representatives Lynch, Cozart, Brown, Evans

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND
SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; TO MODIFY THE AUTOMATIC
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIFORMED
SERVICES MEMBERS, RETURNING UNIFORMED SERVICES
VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS,
VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 is repealed.

~~17-1-106. Automatic licensure for active duty service members,
returning military veterans, and spouses—Definitions.~~

~~(a) As used in this section:~~

~~(1) “Automatic licensure” means the granting of occupational
licensure without an individual’s having met occupational licensure
requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational
licensing entity;~~

~~(2) “Occupational licensing entity” means an office, board,
commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government~~



1 ~~having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise~~
2 ~~authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;~~

3 ~~(3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,~~
4 ~~registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule~~
5 ~~that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or~~
6 ~~profession; and~~

7 ~~(4) "Returning military veteran" means a former member of the~~
8 ~~United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under~~
9 ~~circumstances other than dishonorable.~~

10 ~~(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic~~
11 ~~licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is~~
12 ~~the holder in good standing of a substantially equivalent occupational~~
13 ~~license issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States~~
14 ~~and is:~~

15 ~~(A) An active duty military service member stationed in~~
16 ~~the State of Arkansas;~~

17 ~~(B) A returning military veteran applying for licensure~~
18 ~~within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or~~

19 ~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (b)(1)(A)~~
20 ~~and (b)(1)(B) of this section.~~

21 ~~(2) However, an occupational licensing entity shall be required~~
22 ~~to provide automatic licensure if the proposed rules are not approved as~~
23 ~~required under subdivision (d)(2) of this section.~~

24 ~~(c) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules~~
25 ~~recommending an expedited process and procedure for occupational licensure~~
26 ~~instead of automatic licensure as provided under subsection (b) of this~~
27 ~~section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

28 ~~(d) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council~~
29 ~~shall:~~

30 ~~(1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing~~
31 ~~entity as submitted for public comment and at least thirty (30) days before~~
32 ~~the public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure~~
33 ~~Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

34 ~~(2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under subsection (c) of~~
35 ~~this section based on:~~

36 ~~(A) A determination of whether the expedited process and~~

~~procedure provide the least restrictive means of accomplishing occupational licensure; and~~

~~(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the objectives of this section.~~

~~(c) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council may:~~

~~(1) Establish a subcommittee to assist in the duties assigned under this section;~~

~~(2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a subcommittee created under subdivision (c)(1) of this section; or~~

~~(3) Delegate its duties under this section to one (1) or more subcommittees of the Legislative Council, subject to final review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

~~(f) An occupational licensing entity shall:~~

~~(1) Submit proposed rules authorized under subsection (c) of this section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

~~(2) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of automatic licenses and expedited occupational licenses granted under this section to:~~

~~(A) Active duty military service members stationed in the State of Arkansas;~~

~~(B) Returning military veterans applying within one (1) year of their discharge from active duty; or~~

~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (f)(2)(A) and (f)(2)(B) of this section.~~

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

Chapter 4 – Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021

1
2 17-4-101. Title.

3 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
4 Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses
5 Act of 2021".
6

7 17-4-102. Legislative findings and intent.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Arkansas sets the bar as a national leader in addressing
10 employment barriers faced by uniformed service members, uniformed service
11 veterans, and their spouses in attaining occupational licensure;

12 (2) Arkansas is one (1) of only four (4) states to successfully
13 address eight (8) or more of the ten (10) issues affecting uniformed service
14 families identified by the United States Department of Defense;

15 (3) Of the United States Department of Defense's ten (10) issues
16 in fiscal year 2020, four (4) of the issues concern occupational licensure of
17 spouses of uniformed service members;

18 (4) Annually, fourteen and a half percent (14.5%) of spouses of
19 uniformed service members move across state lines as opposed to one and one-
20 tenth percent (1.1%) of civilians;

21 (5) States can continue to improve the attainment of
22 occupational licensure and to eliminate barriers impeding employment of
23 spouses of uniformed service members following a move across state lines;

24 (6) Acts 2019, No. 820, established provisions for the granting
25 of automatic occupational licensure or expedited occupational licensure to
26 active-duty service members, recently separated veterans, and their spouses
27 who hold occupational licensure in good standing in another jurisdiction; and

28 (7) Additional steps need to be taken to clarify, simplify, and
29 elevate the occupational licensure process for uniformed service members,
30 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses.

31 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to address occupational
32 licensure barriers that impede the launch and sustainability of civilian
33 occupational careers and employment faced by uniformed service members,
34 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses due to frequent uniformed
35 service assignment by:

36 (1) Providing:

1 (A) Automatic occupational licensure or expedited
2 occupational licensure to current license holders to expedite their entry
3 into the workforce of this state;

4 (B) Temporary or provisional licensure to initial
5 licensure candidates while expediting full licensure;

6 (C) Legislative oversight of rulemaking by occupational
7 licensing entities to ensure removal of occupational licensure barriers faced
8 by uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses;
9 and

10 (D) Guidance to assure effective rulemaking and clear
11 license application instructions to uniformed service members, uniformed
12 service veterans, and their spouses;

13 (2) Recognizing uniformed service education, training,
14 experience, and credentials of uniformed service members and uniformed
15 service veterans applying for initial occupational licensure; and

16 (3) Extending licensure expiration and any continuing education
17 required for occupational licensure renewal when a uniformed service member
18 is deployed.

19
20 17-4-103. Definitions.

21 As used in this chapter:

22 (1) "Automatic occupational licensure" means the granting of
23 occupational licensure without an individual's having met occupational
24 licensure requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the
25 relevant occupational licensing entity;

26 (2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,
27 commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government
28 having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise
29 authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession,
30 not including occupations or professions within the judicial branch of
31 government or occupations or professions subject to the superintending
32 control of the Supreme Court;

33 (3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,
34 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule
35 that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
36 profession;

1 (4) "Uniformed service member" means:

2 (A) An active or reserve component member of the United
3 States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United
4 States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or
5 National Guard;

6 (B) An active component member of the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or

8 (C) An active or reserve component member of the United
9 States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service; and

10 (5) "Uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the
11 United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than
12 dishonorable.

13
14 17-4-104. Applicability.

15 Unless otherwise stated in this chapter, this chapter applies to:

16 (1) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of
17 Arkansas;

18 (2) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes
19 residency in the State of Arkansas; and

20 (3) The spouse of:

21 (A) A person listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this
22 section;

23 (B) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of
24 duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying
25 the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and

26 (C) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs
27 to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse
28 establishes residency in the state.

29
30 17-4-105. Automatic occupational licensure.

31 An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic occupational
32 licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is:

33 (1) Listed in § 17-4-104; and

34 (2) The holder in good standing of occupational licensure with
35 similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of
36 the United States.

1
2 17-4-106. Expedited occupational licensure.

3 (a)(1) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules
4 recommending an expedited process for the attainment of occupational
5 licensure instead of automatic occupational licensure as provided under § 17-
6 4-105 to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

7 (2) The proposed rules described in subdivision (a)(1) of this
8 section shall include temporary or provisional occupational licensure
9 provisions with a term of ninety (90) days or more.

10 (3) The occupational licensing entity shall provide automatic
11 occupational licensure if the proposed expedited occupational licensure rules
12 are not approved as required by § 17-4-109.

13 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall expedite the process for
14 initial occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in § 17-4-104.

15 (2) An occupational licensing entity shall provide the applicant
16 under subdivision (b)(1) of this section with a temporary or provisional
17 license upon receipt of required documentation or the successful completion
18 of any examination required by the relevant occupational licensing entity to
19 enable the applicant to secure employment in his or her occupation or
20 profession.

21
22 17-4-107. Acceptance of uniformed service education, training,
23 experience, or service-issued credential.

24 An occupational licensing entity shall accept relevant and applicable
25 uniformed service education, training, or service-issued credential toward
26 occupational licensure qualifications or requirements when considering an
27 application for initial licensure of an individual who is:

28 (1) A uniformed service member; or

29 (2) A uniformed service veteran who makes an application within
30 one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.

31
32 17-4-108. Extension of license expiration and continuing education
33 requirements.

34 (a) An occupational licensing entity shall extend the expiration date
35 of an occupational licensure for a deployed uniformed service member or his
36 or her spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the

1 uniformed service member's return from deployment.

2 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall allow a full or partial
3 exemption from a continuing education requirement that is required as a
4 component of occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in
5 subsection (a) of this section until one hundred eighty (180) days following
6 the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

7 (2) An occupational licensing entity that allows full or partial
8 exemption from continuing education requirements may require evidence of
9 completion of continuing education before granting a subsequent occupational
10 licensure or authorizing the renewal of an occupational licensure.

11
12 17-4-109. Legislative oversight of rules.

13 (a) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
14 shall:

15 (1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing
16 entity as submitted for public comment at least thirty (30) days before the
17 public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, §
18 25-15-201 et seq.; and

19 (2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under § 17-4-106 based
20 on:

21 (A) A determination of whether the expedited process
22 provides the least restrictive means of attaining occupational licensure; and

23 (B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules
24 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the
25 objectives of this section.

26 (b) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
27 may:

28 (1) Establish a further subcommittee to assist in the duties
29 assigned to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
30 under this section;

31 (2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules
32 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more
33 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a
34 subcommittee created under subdivision (b)(1) of this section; or

35 (3) Delegate the duties of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee
36 of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more

1 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, which shall be subject to the final
2 review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the
3 Legislative Council.

4
5 17-4-110. Responsibilities of occupational licensing entities.

6 An occupational licensing entity shall:

7 (1) Submit proposed rules authorized under § 17-4-106 to the
8 Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and
9 approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas
10 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.;

11 (2) If the proposed rules are not approved as required under §
12 17-4-109, provide automatic occupational licensure to an individual listed in
13 § 17-4-104;

14 (3) Post prominently on the occupational licensing entity's
15 website a link entitled "Military Member Licensure" that directly leads to
16 information applicable to an individual listed in § 17-4-104; and

17 (4) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
18 Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of
19 individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited
20 occupational licensure under this chapter.

21
22 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that current laws and
24 administrative rules regarding the issuance of occupational licenses,
25 certificates, and permits are barriers and create a hardship for uniformed
26 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses; that
27 additional expedited processes, automatic licensure, and extended expiration
28 dates of occupational licenses, certificates, and permits is needed to ensure
29 that uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses
30 may practice their chosen occupation or profession in the State of Arkansas;
31 and that this act is immediately necessary to remove barriers and hardships
32 in obtaining occupational licenses, certificates, and permits for uniformed
33 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses. Therefore, an
34 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
35 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
36 effective on:

1 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

2 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
3 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
4 bill; or

5 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
6 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

7
8
9 */s/Hill*

10
11
12 **APPROVED: 2/23/21**
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/10/21

93rd General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 153

By: Senators Gilmore, *B. Ballinger, Beckham, Bledsoe, B. Davis, Flipppo, T. Garner, K. Hammer, Hester, B. Johnson, D. Sullivan, C. Tucker, D. Wallace*

By: Representatives Ray, *Beaty Jr., M. Berry, Boyd, Brooks, Brown, Furman, Haak, McCollum, Underwood, Wardlaw*

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF 2021;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF
2021.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 4, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

4-25-110. Fee waiver for certain individuals.

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the initial filing fees, permit fees, and licensing fees associated with the formation of a business in this state shall be waived for applicants who meet the requirements in the Workforce Expansion Act of 2021, § 17-4-101 et seq.

(b) Appropriate state entities shall:

(1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

(A) The website maintained by the appropriate state entity; and

(B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to complete; and

(2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this section.



1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, is amended to add an additional
2 chapter to read as follows:

3 Chapter 4 – Workforce Expansion Act of 2021

4
5 17-4-101. Title.

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Workforce
7 Expansion Act of 2021".

8
9 17-4-102. Legislative findings – Purpose.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Entrepreneurs and workers must pay various fees in order to
12 work in a government-regulated profession or occupation or to start a small
13 business in Arkansas;

14 (2) Families trying to break the cycle of government dependency
15 should not have to pay the state to earn a living; and

16 (3) Arkansas should waive initial fees associated with
17 occupational and professional regulations and the formation of a business for
18 low-income individuals.

19 (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to increase access to
20 professional and occupational licenses that would otherwise be cost
21 prohibitive for certain individuals.

22
23 17-4-103. Definitions.

24 As used in this chapter:

25 (1) "License" means a license, certificate, registration,
26 permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule that is
27 required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
28 profession; and

29 (2)(A) "Licensing entity" means an office, board, commission,
30 department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government having
31 authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise authorize an
32 individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession.

33 (B) "Licensing entity" does not include a political
34 subdivision of the state or any other local or regional governmental entity,
35 including without limitation a city of the first class, a city of the second
36 class, an incorporated town, or a county.

1 17-4-104. Fee waiver.

2 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensing entity shall
3 not require an initial fee for individuals who are seeking to receive a
4 license in this state if the applicant:

5 (1) Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid
6 Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special
7 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the
8 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, or the Lifeline Assistance
9 Program;

10 (2) Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12)
11 months; or

12 (3) Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent
13 (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

14 (b) The waiver of the initial fee does not include fees for:

15 (1) A criminal background check;

16 (2) An examination or a test; or

17 (3) A medical or drug test.

18 (c) The Department of Human Services and the Division of Workforce
19 Services shall collaborate with a licensing entity concerning verification of
20 eligibility for public benefits for applicants, which may include obtaining a
21 signed consent form from the applicant.

22
23 17-4-105. Licensing entity duties.

24 A licensing entity shall:

25 (1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

26 (A) The website maintained by the licensing entity; and

27 (B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to
28 complete; and

29 (2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this chapter.
30

31 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

32 SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this act shall be effective on and after January 1,
33 2022.
34

35 /s/Gilmore

36 APPROVED: 4/15/21

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1735

By: Representative Penzo
By: Senator Hester

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL
LICENSURE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-1-109. Licensing of certain individuals – Definitions.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Occupational or professional license" means a license,
certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by
law or rule for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
profession; and

(2) "Occupational or professional licensing entity" means an
office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of
state government having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or
otherwise authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
profession.

(b) An occupational or professional licensing entity shall grant an
occupational or professional license under this section to an individual who
fulfills the requirements to practice an occupation or profession in this



1 state and is a person who holds a Federal Form I-766 United States
2 Citizenship and Immigration Services-issued Employment Authorization
3 Document, known popularly as a "work permit".

4 (c) This section is a state law within the meaning of subsection (d)
5 of 8 U.S.C. § 1621, as existing on January 1, 2021.

6
7 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules implementing this act.

8 (a) All occupational or professional licensing entities shall
9 promulgate rules necessary to implement this act.

10 (b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the
11 final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under §
12 25-15-204(f):

13 (A) On or before January 1, 2022; or

14 (B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by
15 January 1, 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

16 (2) An occupational or professional licensing entity shall file
17 the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c)
18 sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so that the Legislative Council
19 may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2022.

20
21
22 APPROVED: 4/19/21
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36