

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2015 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Banking and Insurance

SB 7008 — OGSR/Licensure Examination Questions/Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services

by Banking and Insurance Committee

The bill is the result of an Open Government Sunset Review (OGSR) by the Banking and Insurance Committee professional staff of the public-meeting exemption for portions of meetings of the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services (“board”) at which licensure examination questions or answers are discussed. The exemption also includes the recording of the portion of the meeting that is closed for discussion of licensure examination questions or answers.

The board enforces provisions of ch. 497, F.S., relating to funeral and cemetery services. It also has broad authority over licensure and examination of applicants for various licenses. That authority includes specifying the content of examinations for licensure, striking any examination question determined before or after an examination to be inappropriate, and specifying which national examinations shall or shall not be required or accepted in Florida.

Current law provides that those portions of meetings of the board at which licensure examination questions or answers are discussed are exempt from public meetings requirements. The closed meeting must be recorded, and no portion of the closed meeting may be off the record. The recording shall be maintained by the board. The recording of a closed portion of a meeting is exempt from public record requirements. This bill repeals the scheduled expiration of the public meetings exemption and takes effect on October 1, 2015.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2015.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0