

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to professional geology; amending s.
3 492.104, F.S.; providing for apportionment of the
4 licensure examination fee; amending s. 492.105, F.S.;
5 revising licensure examination requirements for
6 professional geologists; creating s. 492.1051, F.S.;
7 providing requirements for registration as a
8 geologist-in-training; providing requirements for
9 geologist-in-training applicants to take a discrete
10 part of the licensure examination; requiring the
11 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to
12 register each geologist-in-training applicant who
13 passes the fundamentals of geology part of the
14 licensure examination; exempting registered
15 geologists-in-training seeking licensure as a
16 professional geologist from retaking the fundamentals
17 of geology part of the licensure examination;
18 providing an effective date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 492.104, Florida
23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24 492.104 Rulemaking authority.—The Board of Professional
25 Geologists has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.
26 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. Every licensee

27 shall be governed and controlled by this chapter and the rules
28 adopted by the board. The board is authorized to set, by rule,
29 fees for application, examination, certificate of authorization,
30 late renewal, initial licensure, and license renewal. These fees
31 should not exceed the cost of implementing the application,
32 examination, initial licensure, and license renewal or other
33 administrative process and shall be established as follows:

34 (2) The examination fee shall not exceed \$250. The fee may
35 be apportioned to each part of a multi-part examination and
36 shall be refundable in whole or in part if the applicant is
37 found to be ineligible to take all or part of the licensure
38 examination.

39 Section 2. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of
40 section 492.105, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

41 492.105 Licensure by examination; requirements; fees.—

42 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a professional
43 geologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
44 examination. The written licensure examination shall be designed
45 to test an applicant's qualifications to practice professional
46 geology, and shall include such subjects as will tend to
47 ascertain the applicant's knowledge of the fundamentals, theory,
48 and the practice of professional geology and may include such
49 subjects as are taught in curricula of accredited colleges and
50 universities. The written licensure examination may be a multi-
51 part examination. The department shall examine each applicant
52 who the board certifies:

53 (d) Has fulfilled ~~Fulfills~~ the following educational
 54 requirements at a college or university, the geological
 55 curricula of which meet the criteria established by an
 56 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
 57 Education:

58 1. Graduation from such college or university with a major
 59 in geology or other related science acceptable to the board; and

60 2. Satisfactory completion of at least 30 semester hours
 61 or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework ~~courses, 24 of~~
 62 ~~which must be at the third or fourth year or graduate level.~~

63 (e) Has at least 5 ~~7~~ years of verified professional
 64 geological work experience, which includes ~~shall include~~ a
 65 minimum of 3 years of professional geological work under the
 66 supervision of a licensed or qualified geologist or professional
 67 engineer registered under chapter 471 as qualified in the field
 68 or discipline of professional engineering work performed
 69 ~~involved~~; or has ~~have~~ a minimum of 5 accumulative years of
 70 verified geological work ~~years~~ experience in responsible charge
 71 of geological work as determined by the board. ~~The following~~
 72 ~~criteria of education and experience qualify, as specified,~~
 73 ~~toward accumulation of the required 7 years of professional~~
 74 ~~geological work:~~

75 1. ~~Each year of undergraduate study in the geological~~
 76 ~~sciences shall count as 1/2 year of the experience requirement,~~
 77 ~~up to a maximum of 2 years, and each year of graduate study~~
 78 ~~shall count as 1 year of the experience requirement.~~

79 ~~2. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and~~
80 ~~graduate courses, individually or in any combination thereof,~~
81 ~~shall in no case exceed a total of 2 years toward meeting the~~
82 ~~requirements for at least 7 years of professional geological~~
83 ~~work.~~

84 ~~3. Full-time teaching or research in the geological~~
85 ~~sciences at the college level shall be credited year for year~~
86 ~~toward meeting the requirement in this category.~~

87 ~~4. The ability of the applicant shall have been~~
88 ~~demonstrated by his or her having performed the work in a~~
89 ~~responsible position as determined by the board.~~

90 Section 3. Section 492.1051, Florida Statutes, is created
91 to read:

92 492.1051 Registered geologist-in-training.-

93 (1) A person desiring to register as a geologist-in-
94 training shall apply to the department to take a discrete part
95 of the examination required for licensure as a professional
96 geologist in this state. The discrete part shall cover the
97 fundamentals of geology. The department shall examine each
98 applicant who the board certifies:

99 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
100 nonrefundable application fee and an examination fee that is
101 refundable if the applicant is found to be ineligible to take
102 the examination.

103 (b) Has not committed an act or offense in any
104 jurisdiction which constitutes grounds for disciplining a

105 professional geologist licensed under this chapter.

106 (c) Has successfully completed at least 30 semester hours
107 or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework at a college or
108 university, the geological curricula of which meet the criteria
109 established by an accrediting agency recognized by the United
110 States Department of Education and, if still enrolled, has
111 provided a letter of good academic standing from the college or
112 university.

113 (2) The department shall register as a geologist-in-
114 training each applicant who the board certifies has passed the
115 fundamentals of geology part of the licensure examination.

116 (3) A registered geologist-in-training desiring to be
117 licensed as a professional geologist shall apply to the
118 department to take the licensure examination as prescribed in s.
119 492.105(1), but is not required to retake the fundamentals of
120 geology part of the licensure examination.

121 Section 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.