

By the Committees on Rules; and Regulated Industries; and  
Senator Grimsley

595-01881-14

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to professional geology; amending s.  
3       492.104, F.S.; providing for apportionment of  
4       examination fees; amending s. 492.105, F.S.; revising  
5       examination requirements for professional geologists;  
6       creating s. 492.1051, F.S.; providing requirements for  
7       registration as a geologist-in-training; requiring  
8       geologist-in-training applicants to successfully  
9       complete the fundamentals of geology portion of the  
10      licensure examination; requiring an application fee  
11      and a refundable examination fee; requiring the  
12      Department of Business and Professional Regulation to  
13      submit each completed application to the Board of  
14      Professional Geologists for certification; setting  
15      forth the criteria the board may use to certify  
16      applicants; requiring the department to register each  
17      person as a geologist-in-training whom the board  
18      certifies has successfully completed the fundamentals  
19      portion of the geology examination; exempting  
20      registered geologist-in-training seeking licensure as  
21      a professional geologist from retaking the  
22      fundamentals of geology portion of the examination;  
23      providing an effective date.

24  
25   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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27       Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 492.104, Florida  
28       Statutes, is amended to read  
29       492.104 Rulemaking authority.—The Board of Professional

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30 Geologists has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
31 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. Every licensee  
32 shall be governed and controlled by this chapter and the rules  
33 adopted by the board. The board is authorized to set, by rule,  
34 fees for application, examination, certificate of authorization,  
35 late renewal, initial licensure, and license renewal. These fees  
36 should not exceed the cost of implementing the application,  
37 examination, initial licensure, and license renewal or other  
38 administrative process and shall be established as follows:

39 (2) The examination fee shall not exceed \$250 and the fee  
40 may be apportioned to each part of a multi-part examination. The  
41 examination fee shall be refundable in whole or part if the  
42 applicant is found to be ineligible to take any portion of the  
43 licensure examination.

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

46 492.105 Licensure by examination; requirements; fees.—

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

58 (d) Has fulfilled ~~Fulfills~~ the following educational

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59 requirements at a college or university, the geological  
60 curricula of which meet the criteria established by an  
61 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of  
62 Education:

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

65 2. Satisfactory completion of at least 30 semester hours or  
66 45 quarter hours of geological coursework ~~courses~~, ~~24 of which~~  
67 ~~must be at the third or fourth year or graduate level.~~

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

80 ~~1. Each year of undergraduate study in the geological~~  
81 ~~sciences shall count as 1/2 year of the experience requirement,~~  
82 ~~up to a maximum of 2 years, and each year of graduate study~~  
83 ~~shall count as 1 year of the experience requirement.~~

84 ~~2. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and~~  
85 ~~graduate courses, individually or in any combination thereof,~~  
86 ~~shall in no case exceed a total of 2 years toward meeting the~~  
87 ~~requirements for at least 7 years of professional geological~~

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88 ~~work.~~

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

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

95 Section 3. Section 492.1051, Florida Statutes, is created  
96 to read:

97 492.1051 Registered geologist-in-training; requirements.-

98 (1) A person desiring to register as a geologist-in-  
99 training shall apply to the department to take a discrete  
100 portion of the examination required for licensure as a  
101 professional geologist in this state. This discrete portion  
102 shall cover the fundamentals of geology. The department shall  
103 examine each applicant who the board certifies:

104 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a  
105 nonrefundable application fee and an examination fee that is  
106 refundable if the applicant is found to be ineligible to take  
107 the examination.

108 (b) Has not committed an act or offense in any jurisdiction  
109 which constitutes grounds for disciplining a professional  
110 geologist licensed under this chapter; and

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

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117 university.

118 (2) The department shall register as a geologist-in-  
119 training each applicant who the board certifies has passed the  
120 fundamentals of geology portion of the licensure examination.

121 (3) A registered geologist-in-training desiring to be  
122 licensed as a professional geologist shall apply to the  
123 department to take the licensure examination as prescribed in s.  
124 492.105(1), but is not required to retake the fundamentals of  
125 geology portion of the licensure examination.

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