

**By** the Committees on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;  
and Regulated Industries; and Senator Hooper

585-02145-24

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to continuing education requirements;  
3           amending s. 455.2123, F.S.; requiring, rather than  
4           authorizing, a board, or the Department of Business  
5           and Professional Regulation when there is no board, to  
6           allow by rule that distance learning may be used to  
7           satisfy continuing education requirements; revising  
8           the requirements that such continuing education must  
9           satisfy; amending s. 455.2124, F.S.; requiring the  
10          board, or the department when there is no board, to  
11          exempt certain individuals from completing their  
12          continuing education requirements; providing  
13          applicability; requiring the department and each  
14          affected board to adopt rules; authorizing the  
15          department to adopt emergency rules; providing  
16          requirements and an expiration date for the emergency  
17          rules; providing for the expiration of such rulemaking  
18          authority; providing an effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22           Section 1. Section 455.2123, Florida Statutes, is amended  
23 to read:

24           455.2123 Continuing education.—A board, or the department  
25 when there is no board, shall allow ~~may provide~~ by rule that  
26 distance learning may be used to satisfy continuing education  
27 requirements. A board, or the department when there is no board,  
28 shall approve distance learning courses as an alternative to  
29 classroom courses to satisfy continuing education requirements.

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30 A board, or the department when there is no board, provided for  
31 in part VIII, part XV, or part XVI of chapter 468 or part I or  
32 part II of chapter 475 and may not require centralized  
33 examinations for completion of continuing education requirements  
34 for the professions licensed under part VIII, part XV, or part  
35 XVI of chapter 468 or part I or part II of chapter 475.

36 Section 2. Section 455.2124, Florida Statutes, is amended  
37 to read:

38 455.2124 Proration of or not requiring continuing  
39 education.—

40 (1) A board, or the department when there is no board, may:

41 (a) ~~(1)~~ Prorate continuing education for new licensees by  
42 requiring half of the required continuing education for any  
43 applicant who becomes licensed with more than half the renewal  
44 period remaining and no continuing education for any applicant  
45 who becomes licensed with half or less than half of the renewal  
46 period remaining; or

47 (b) ~~(2)~~ Require no continuing education until the first full  
48 renewal cycle of the licensee.

49  
50 These options shall also apply when continuing education is  
51 first required or the number of hours required is increased by  
52 law or the board, or the department when there is no board.

53 (2) (a) A board, or the department when there is no board,  
54 shall exempt an individual from completing the continuing  
55 education required for renewal of a license for a renewal period  
56 if:

57 1. The individual holds an active license issued by the  
58 board or department to practice the profession;

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59       2. The individual has continuously held the license for at  
60 least 10 years; and

61       3. No disciplinary action is imposed on the individual's  
62 license.

63       (b) This subsection does not apply to engineers regulated  
64 pursuant to chapter 471, certified public accountants regulated  
65 pursuant to chapter 473, to appraisers regulated pursuant to  
66 part II of chapter 475, to architects or interior designers  
67 regulated pursuant to chapter 481, or to contractors regulated  
68 pursuant to chapter 489.

69       (3) The department and each affected board shall adopt  
70 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this  
71 section.

72       Section 3. (1) The Department of Business and Professional  
73 Regulation is authorized, and all conditions are deemed to be  
74 met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida  
75 Statutes, for the purpose of implementing the amendments made by  
76 this act to s. 455.2124, Florida Statutes, including  
77 establishing procedures to facilitate the exemption for eligible  
78 individuals from completing continuing education.

79       (2) Notwithstanding any other law, emergency rules adopted  
80 pursuant to subsection (1) are effective for 6 months after  
81 adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to  
82 adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency  
83 rules.

84       (3) This section expires January 1, 2026.

85       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.