

ASSEMBLY REGULATED PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3835

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 7, 2009

The Assembly Regulated Professions Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 3835.

As amended, this bill requires professional engineers to complete not more than 24 credits of continuing professional competency relating to the practice of professional engineering, two of which credits shall be in professional practice ethics, during each biennial licensure period to be eligible for renewal of their licenses. In the case of education courses or programs, each credit shall be equivalent to one hour of instruction. The State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors shall establish standards for continuing professional competency in professional engineering and these standards shall be in conformity with a national model, such as that of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Waivers of the required continuing professional competency may be granted by the board on an individual basis due to hardship or other good cause. Those professional engineers whose first renewal date occurs within 12 months after the enactment of the bill would not have to complete the required professional engineering continuing professional competency credits to renew their license. Those whose first renewal falls more than 12 but less than 24 months after the enactment of the bill would be required to complete the required professional engineering continuing professional competency credits on a pro rata basis.

Notwithstanding the 24 credit continuing professional competency requirement for professional engineers and land surveyors, each person licensed as both a professional engineer and a land surveyor, as a condition for biennial certification, must complete not less than 36 credits of continuing professional competency relating to the practice of professional engineering and land surveying, with not less than 12 credits to be completed in professional engineering and not less than 12 credits to be completed in land surveying.

The bill also provides that each professional engineer who is licensed to practice landscape architecture, as a condition for biennial certification, must complete not less than 12 hours of continuing education in landscape architecture.

The board shall allow a professional engineer to carry over a maximum of 12 continuing professional competency credits to the next biennial licensure period.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to require professional engineers to complete two credits of continuing education in professional practice ethics.

The committee also amended the bill to require that each person licensed as both a professional engineer and a land surveyor, as a condition for biennial certification, complete not less than 36 credits of continuing professional competency relating to the practice of professional engineering and land surveying, with not less than 12 credits to be completed in professional engineering and not less than 12 credits to be completed in land surveying.

The amendments also provide that each professional engineer who is licensed to practice landscape architecture, as a condition for biennial certification, must complete not less than 12 hours of continuing education in landscape architecture.