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**By: Delegates Love and Goldwater**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Land Surveyors - Continuing Education**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring as a condition of renewal of license to practice land  
4 surveying or property line surveying the completion of a certain minimum number  
5 of professional development hours of continuing education instruction; providing  
6 for a certain exception; requiring the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors  
7 to approve the form, substance, and subject matter of the continuing education  
8 courses; providing for the computation of the credit for the continuing education  
9 courses; requiring that the courses be offered at reasonable intervals in each region  
10 of the State, if feasible; allowing the Board to authorize certain alternative  
11 continuing education options; requiring issuance and maintenance of certain  
12 records; authorizing the Board to waive the continuing education requirements  
13 under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to  
14 continuing education requirements for licensed land surveyors and licensed  
15 property line surveyors.

16 BY adding to

17 Article - Business Occupations and Professions  
18 Section 15-314.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Business Occupations and Professions**

24 15-314.1.

25 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
26 INDICATED.

27 (2) "CORE COURSE" MEANS A COURSE WITH A CLEAR, TECHNICAL  
28 OBJECTIVE THAT WILL MAINTAIN, IMPROVE, OR EXPAND THE SKILLS AND  
29 KNOWLEDGE OBTAINED BEFORE THE INITIAL LICENSURE OR TO DEVELOP NEW  
30 AND RELEVANT TECHNICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE DISCIPLINE BEING  
31 PRACTICED BY THE LICENSEE.

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1 (3) "NONCORE COURSE" INCLUDES A COURSE ON ETHICS,  
2 ACCOUNTING, QUALITY, OR HUMAN RESOURCES.

3 (4) "PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOUR" MEANS A CLOCK HOUR OF  
4 INSTRUCTION OR PRESENTATION.

5 (B) (1) TO QUALIFY FOR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A  
6 LICENSEE SHALL COMPLETE AT LEAST 24 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS OF  
7 CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTRUCTION, AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, DURING  
8 EACH 2-YEAR LICENSE TERM.

9 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A  
10 LICENSE IS GRANTED TO A LICENSEE DURING THE 2ND YEAR OF A LICENSE TERM,  
11 THE LICENSEE MAY RENEW THE LICENSE FOR THE NEXT FULL TERM WITHOUT  
12 COMPLYING WITH THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

13 (C) (1) THE BOARD SHALL APPROVE THE FORM, SUBSTANCE, AND SUBJECT  
14 MATTER OF ALL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES, INCLUDING CORE COURSES  
15 AND NONCORE COURSES THAT QUALIFY FOR CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.

16 (2) AT LEAST 12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS OF CONTINUING  
17 EDUCATION INSTRUCTION MUST BE IN COURSES THAT THE BOARD DETERMINES TO  
18 BE CORE COURSES.

19 (3) IF A LICENSEE EXCEEDS THE CONTINUING EDUCATION  
20 REQUIREMENT DURING A LICENSE TERM, THE LICENSEE MAY CARRY FORWARD UP  
21 TO 8 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS INTO THE SUBSEQUENT LICENSE TERM.

22 (4) THE CONVERSION OF OTHER UNITS OF CREDIT TO PROFESSIONAL  
23 DEVELOPMENT HOURS IS AS FOLLOWS:

24 (I) 1 COLLEGE OR UNIT SEMESTER CREDIT EQUALS 15  
25 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS;

26 (II) 1 COLLEGE OR UNIT QUARTER CREDIT EQUALS 10  
27 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS;

28 (III) 1 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (EQUIVALENT TO 10 HOURS  
29 OF CLASS IN A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE) EQUALS 10 PROFESSIONAL  
30 DEVELOPMENT HOURS; AND

31 (IV) 1 HOUR OF A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE,  
32 SEMINAR, PROFESSIONAL CONVENTION, OR WORKSHOP EQUALS 1 PROFESSIONAL  
33 DEVELOPMENT HOUR.

34 (5) CREDIT FOR COLLEGE OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES SHALL  
35 BE BASED ON THE COURSE CREDIT ESTABLISHED BY THE COLLEGE.

36 (C) (1) CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES MAY BE CONDUCTED BY:

37 (I) THE MARYLAND SOCIETY OF SURVEYORS;

38 (II) A SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION; OR

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1 (III) AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

2 (2) IF FEASIBLE, CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES SHALL BE  
3 OFFERED AT REASONABLE INTERVALS IN EACH REGION OF THE STATE.

4 (D) (1) THE BOARD MAY ALSO AUTHORIZE CONTINUING EDUCATION  
5 CREDITS FOR ALTERNATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTIONS INCLUDING:

6 (I) CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES THAT ARE CONDUCTED  
7 THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE OR ARE TELEVISED, VIDEOTAPED, OR AUDIO TAPED;

8 (II) PRESENTATIONS PREPARED BY THE LICENSEE FOR:

9 1. QUALIFYING SEMINARS;

10 2. COURSES AT THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT; OR

11 3. WORKSHOPS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS,  
12 CONVENTIONS, OR CONFERENCES;

13 (III) TEACHING OF APPROVED COLLEGE COURSES, CONTINUING  
14 EDUCATION COURSES, OR OTHER APPROVED COURSES; OR

15 (IV) AUTHORIZING PUBLISHED PAPERS, ARTICLES, OR BOOKS.

16 (2) IF THE BOARD AUTHORIZES AN ALTERNATIVE CONTINUING  
17 EDUCATION OPTION, THE BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER  
18 OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS FOR THE OPTION.

19 (E) (1) ON COMPLETION OF A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE BY A  
20 LICENSEE, THE ENTITY THAT CONDUCTED THE COURSE OR THE INSTRUCTOR OF  
21 THE COURSE SHALL ISSUE TO THE LICENSEE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION THAT  
22 STATES THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF CREDITS OR NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL  
23 DEVELOPMENT HOURS OF THAT COURSE.

24 (2) EACH LICENSEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING CONTINUING  
25 EDUCATION RECORDS, INCLUDING:

26 (I) A LOG SHOWING THE TYPE OF COURSE, SPONSORING  
27 ORGANIZATION, LOCATION, DURATION, INSTRUCTOR'S OR SPEAKER'S NAME, AND  
28 THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS EARNED OR OTHER INFORMATION  
29 NECESSARY TO VALIDATE THE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS; AND

30 (II) ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION RECORDS IN THE FORM OF  
31 COMPLETION CERTIFICATES, PAID RECEIPTS, OR OTHER DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING  
32 EVIDENCE OF ATTENDANCE OR COMPLETION OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN  
33 APPROVED ALTERNATIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTION.

34 (3) EACH LICENSEE SHALL MAINTAIN THE RECORDS DESCRIBED IN  
35 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR 3 YEARS.

36 (4) THE BOARD MAY REQUEST COPIES OF THE RECORDS DESCRIBED IN  
37 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO VERIFY CONTINUING EDUCATION  
38 CREDITS.

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1 (F) (1) THE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT OF THIS SECTION FOR  
2 A LICENSE IF THE LICENSEE SHOWS GOOD CAUSE FOR BEING UNABLE TO MEET THE  
3 REQUIREMENTS.

4 (2) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBSECTION, GOOD CAUSE INCLUDES:

5 (I) SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE  
6 UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST 120 CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN A CALENDAR YEAR; AND

7 (II) PHYSICAL DISABILITY, ILLNESS, OR OTHER EXTENUATING  
8 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE BOARD APPROVES AS GOOD CAUSE.

9 (3) A LICENSEE REQUESTING A WAIVER SHALL SUBMIT  
10 DOCUMENTATION OF THE REASON FOR THE REQUEST.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 1997.