

HOUSE BILL 927

M1

3lr2440
CF SB 692

By: **Delegates Stein, Bobo, Glenn, Lafferty, and S. Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Licensed Tree Expert – License Renewal – Continuing Education**
3 **Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a licensed tree expert to complete certain continuing
5 education requirements to qualify for license renewal; requiring the
6 Department of Natural Resources to maintain certain records for each licensed
7 tree expert; requiring the Department to update certain records when a
8 document of completion is approved; requiring the Department to mail a
9 renewal application form to a licensed tree expert under certain circumstances;
10 requiring the Department to approve the curriculum for a continuing education
11 course if the curriculum covers certain information; requiring the Department
12 to approve the curriculum for a course before the course may be advertised as a
13 course eligible for continuing education instruction; requiring an entity to
14 submit the course curriculum to the Department for approval within a certain
15 period of time; stating that a continuing education course does not need to be
16 conducted in the State to be approved by the Department; requiring an entity
17 conducting a continuing education course or the course instructor to submit a
18 document of completion to the Department or to a licensed tree expert as
19 evidence that the licensed tree expert has completed the continuing education
20 course; requiring the document of completion to include certain information;
21 requiring a licensed tree expert to submit certain information to the
22 Department under certain circumstances; authorizing a licensed tree expert to
23 take a certain examination by a certain date to renew a license if the licensed
24 tree expert does not meet certain requirements; stating that a licensed tree
25 expert's renewal is not valid unless the licensed tree expert has met certain
26 requirements; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; and
27 generally relating to continuing education requirements for licensed tree
28 experts.

29 BY adding to
30 Article – Natural Resources

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 5-420.1
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2012 Replacement Volume)

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

6 **Article – Natural Resources**

7 **5-420.1.**

8 **(A) TO QUALIFY FOR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS PART, A**
9 **LICENSED TREE EXPERT SHALL COMPLETE:**

10 **(1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, AT LEAST 8 HOURS OF**
11 **APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTRUCTION DURING THE PRECEDING**
12 **2-YEAR TERM; AND**

13 **(2) ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AT LEAST 4 HOURS OF**
14 **APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTRUCTION DURING THE PRECEDING**
15 **1-YEAR TERM.**

16 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

17 **(1) MAINTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION RECORDS FOR EACH**
18 **LICENSED TREE EXPERT;**

19 **(2) UPDATE THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT'S CONTINUING**
20 **EDUCATION RECORDS TO REFLECT COMPLETION OF THE APPROPRIATE COURSE**
21 **HOURS; AND**

22 **(3) MAIL A RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM TO THE LICENSED**
23 **TREE EXPERT WHEN THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT'S CONTINUING EDUCATION**
24 **RECORDS SHOW THAT THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT HAS COMPLETED THE**
25 **REQUIRED NUMBER OF COURSE HOURS.**

26 **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE THE CURRICULUM FOR A**
27 **CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE:**

28 **(I) IF THE CURRICULUM COVERS NEW STATE AND FEDERAL**
29 **LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, OR TECHNOLOGIES AFFECTING THE WORK OF A**
30 **LICENSED TREE EXPERT; AND**

1 **(II) BEFORE THE COURSE MAY BE ADVERTISED AS A**
2 **COURSE ELIGIBLE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION INSTRUCTION UNDER THIS**
3 **SECTION.**

4 **(2) AN ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT THE COURSE CURRICULUM TO THE**
5 **DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AT LEAST 2 WEEKS**
6 **BEFORE THE DATE OF THE SCHEDULED COURSE.**

7 **(3) THE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE DOES NOT NEED TO BE**
8 **CONDUCTED IN THE STATE TO BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

9 **(D) (1) ON COMPLETION OF A CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE BY A**
10 **LICENSED TREE EXPERT, THE ENTITY THAT CONDUCTED THE COURSE OR THE**
11 **COURSE INSTRUCTOR SHALL SUBMIT A DOCUMENT OF COMPLETION TO THE**
12 **DEPARTMENT OR TO THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT.**

13 **(2) THE DOCUMENT OF COMPLETION SHALL INCLUDE THE**
14 **NUMBER OF CLASSROOM HOURS OF THE COURSE, THE CURRICULUM, AND THE**
15 **NAME AND LICENSED TREE EXPERT NUMBER FOR THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT**
16 **THAT HAS COMPLETED THE COURSE.**

17 **(3) IF THE ENTITY THAT CONDUCTED THE COURSE OR THE**
18 **COURSE INSTRUCTOR SUBMITTED THE DOCUMENT OF COMPLETION TO THE**
19 **LICENSED TREE EXPERT, THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT SHALL SUBMIT THE**
20 **DOCUMENT OF COMPLETION ISSUED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
21 **SUBSECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

22 **(E) IF A LICENSED TREE EXPERT DOES NOT COMPLETE THE**
23 **REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT MAY**
24 **RENEW A LICENSE BY TAKING AND PASSING THE EXAMINATION GIVEN BY THE**
25 **DEPARTMENT BY JANUARY 31 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING LICENSE EXPIRATION.**

26 **(F) A LICENSED TREE EXPERT'S RENEWAL IS NOT VALID UNLESS:**

27 **(1) THE LICENSED TREE EXPERT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS**
28 **UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

29 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ALL FEES AND FORMS**
30 **REQUIRED UNDER THIS PART.**

31 **(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT**
32 **THIS SECTION.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2013.