

Chapter 611

(House Bill 702)

AN ACT concerning

Professional Land Surveyors – Licensure Qualifications – Revisions

FOR the purpose of requiring certain applicants for a license to practice land surveying to apply for a license on or before a certain date to qualify for licensure with certain qualifications; altering certain educational, experiential, and examination requirements for applicants for a license to practice land surveying; authorizing the Board of Professional Land Surveyors to waive certain examination requirements or require certain applicants for a license to practice land surveying in the State to pass certain ~~examination requirements~~ examinations; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to revisions to licensure qualifications for professional land surveyors.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 15–305 and 15–311
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

15–305.

(a) In addition to the other qualifications for a license to practice land surveying, an applicant shall qualify under this section by meeting the educational, experience, and examination requirements set forth in subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) of this section.

(b) An applicant qualifies under this section if the applicant:

~~(1) has [been] graduated from a college or university [upon] ON completion of at least a 4-year curriculum [in] THAT INCLUDES FROM A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY THAT IS ACCREDITED BY, OR IS A CONSTITUENT UNIT OF AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY, THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OR THE EQUIVALENT REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF OTHER REGIONAL AREAS AND POSSESSES, BEGINNING ON~~

~~OCTOBER 1, 2023, A MINIMUM OF 32 CREDIT HOURS OF land surveying that the Board approves;~~

(1) HAS GRADUATED ON COMPLETION OF AT LEAST A 4-YEAR CURRICULUM FROM A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY THAT IS ACCREDITED BY, OR IS A CONSTITUENT UNIT OF AN INSTITUTION ACCREDITED BY, THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OR THE EQUIVALENT REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF OTHER REGIONAL AREAS;

~~(2) has passed the examination in the fundamentals of LAND surveying~~ **BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2023, POSSESSES A MINIMUM OF 32 CREDIT HOURS OF LAND SURVEYING-RELATED COURSES THAT THE BOARD APPROVES;**

(3) **(I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017,** has [a specific record of] at least ~~[2]~~ 4 years [of progressive office and field] **OF** experience in land surveying [of a grade and character] that is satisfactory to the Board and that indicates to the Board that the applicant may be competent to practice land surveying; ~~and~~ **OR**

(II) BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2017, HAS AT LEAST 4 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN LAND SURVEYING THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND THAT INDICATES TO THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT MAY BE COMPETENT TO PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING; AND

(4) has passed the following examinations:

(I) FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING;

~~(ii) (II) A WRITTEN EXAMINATION IN~~ the principles and practice of ~~LAND~~ surveying; and

~~(iii) (III)~~ unless excused by the Board, State-specific examination modules specified and approved by the Board that pertain to the practice of surveying in the State.

(c) An applicant qualifies under this section if the applicant:

(1) APPLIES FOR A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023;

~~[(1)] (2)~~ has [been] graduated [upon] **ON** completion of at least a 4-year curriculum from a college or university that is accredited by, or is a constituent unit of an institution accredited by, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools or the equivalent regional accrediting association of other regional areas;

~~[(2)] (3)~~ ~~has passed the examination in the fundamentals of LAND surveying;~~

~~[(3)] (4)~~ **(I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017,** has [a specific record of] at least ~~[4] 6~~ years [of progressive office and field] **OF** experience in land surveying [of a grade and character] that is satisfactory to the Board and that indicates to the Board that the applicant may be competent to practice land surveying; ~~and~~ **OR**

(II) BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2017, HAS AT LEAST 6 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN LAND SURVEYING THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND THAT INDICATES TO THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT MAY BE COMPETENT TO PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING; AND

~~[(4)] (5)~~ **(4)** has passed the following examinations:

(I) FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING;

~~(i) (II)~~ ~~A WRITTEN EXAMINATION IN~~ the principles and practice of ~~LAND~~ surveying; and

~~(ii) (III)~~ unless excused by the Board, State-specific examination modules specified and approved by the Board that pertain to the practice of surveying in the State.

(d) (1) An applicant qualifies under this section if the applicant:

(I) APPLIES FOR A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025;

~~[(i)] (II)~~ is a high school graduate or the equivalent;

~~[(ii)] (III)~~ subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, has [a specific record of] at least 12 years [of progressive office and field] experience in land surveying [of a grade and character] that is satisfactory to the Board and that indicates to the Board that the applicant may be competent to practice land surveying; and

~~[(iii)] (IV)~~ has passed the following examinations:

1. ~~A WRITTEN EXAMINATION IN~~ the principles and practice of ~~LAND~~ surveying; and

2. unless excused by the Board, State-specific examination modules specified and approved by the Board that pertain to the practice of surveying in the State.

(2) For each 30 semester hours or its equivalent that an applicant completes in land surveying-RELATED courses that the Board approves, the Board may allow a 1-year credit towards the experience requirements of paragraph [(1)(ii)] **(1)(III)** of this subsection for a maximum of 3 years.

(e) (1) An applicant qualifies under this section if the applicant:

~~(i) APPLIES FOR A LICENSE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023;~~

~~[(i)] (ii) (I)~~ is a high school graduate or the equivalent AND;

(II) BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2023, POSSESSES A MINIMUM OF 32 CREDIT HOURS OF LAND SURVEYING-RELATED COURSES THAT THE BOARD APPROVES;

~~[(ii)] (iii) (II) (III)~~ subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, has [a specific record of] at least [8] 4 years OF [of progressive office and field] experience in land surveying [of a grade and character] that is satisfactory to the Board and that indicates to the Board that the applicant may be competent to practice land surveying;

~~[(iii)] (iv) (III)~~ has passed ~~[the] A WRITTEN THE~~ examination in the fundamentals of ~~LAND~~ surveying;

~~(v) (IV) HAS AT LEAST 4 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LAND SURVEYING THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND THAT INDICATES TO THE BOARD THAT THE APPLICANT MAY BE COMPETENT TO PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING;~~ and

~~[(iv)] (vi) (V)~~ has passed the following examinations:

1. FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING;

~~2. A WRITTEN EXAMINATION IN~~ the principles and practice of ~~LAND~~ surveying; and

~~3.~~ 3. unless excused by the Board, State-specific examination modules specified and approved by the Board that pertain to the practice of surveying in the State.

(2) For each 30 semester hours or its equivalent that an applicant completes in land surveying—*RELATED* courses that the Board approves, the Board may allow a 1-year credit towards the experience requirements of paragraph ~~[(1)(ii)]~~ ~~(1)(III)~~ ~~(1)(II)~~ (1)(III) of this subsection for a maximum of 3 years.

15-311.

(a) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Board may waive any examination requirement **OR ANY PART OF AN EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT** of this subtitle for an individual who is licensed to practice land surveying in another state.

(b) The Board may grant a waiver under this section only if the applicant:

(1) is of good character and reputation;

(2) pays to the Board:

(i) the nonrefundable application fee set by the Board under § 15-306 of this subtitle; and

(ii) the license fee set by the Board; and

(3) provides adequate evidence that, at the time the applicant was licensed by the other state, the applicant met requirements that were equivalent to those then required by the laws of this State.

(C) THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE AN APPLICANT UNDER THIS SECTION TO:

(1) PASS THE STATE-SPECIFIC PART OF ~~A WRITTEN~~ AN EXAMINATION; AND

(2) PASS ANY PART OF A NATIONALLY ADMINISTERED EXAMINATION THAT THE APPLICANT HAS PREVIOUSLY FAILED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2014.