

Chapter 139

(House Bill 1457)

AN ACT concerning

Land Surveyors – Qualifications for License – Education, Experience, and Examination Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering and adding certain higher education, experience, and examination requirements that certain applicants for a license to practice land surveying must meet to qualify for a license; repealing certain dates after which, and certain dates on or before which, certain applicants must possess a certain minimum number of credit hours in certain land surveying–related courses, must have a certain minimum number of years of certain experience in land surveying, or must apply for a license to practice land surveying; authorizing the State Board of Land Surveyors to allow a certain credit up to a certain maximum towards certain experience requirements for certain applicants under certain circumstances; requiring certain applicants to apply for a license on or before a certain date; and generally relating to qualifications of applicants for a license to practice land surveying.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
 Section 15–305
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 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), **OR (F)** of this section.

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

(1) has graduated on completion of at least a 4–year curriculum **IN LAND SURVEYING THAT THE BOARD APPROVES** 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) [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 at least 2 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; [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)] (3) has passed the following examinations:

(i) fundamentals of surveying;

(ii) the principles and practice of surveying; and

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

[(1) applies for a license on or before December 31, 2023;

(2)] (I) has graduated on completion of at least a 4–year curriculum **IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES OR APPLIED SCIENCES** 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;

[(3) (i)] (II) [on or before September 30, 2017,] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, 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; [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)] (III) has passed the following examinations:

[(i)] 1. fundamentals of surveying;

[(ii)] 2. the principles and practice of surveying; and

[(iii)] 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) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR A MAXIMUM OF 3 YEARS.

(D) (1) AN APPLICANT QUALIFIES UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE APPLICANT:

(I) 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 SCHOOLS OR THE EQUIVALENT REGIONAL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF OTHER REGIONAL AREAS;

(II) HAS A MINIMUM OF 30 CREDIT HOURS OF LAND SURVEYING-RELATED COURSES THAT THE BOARD APPROVES;

(III) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, 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

(IV) HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING EXAMINATIONS:

1. FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING;

2. THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURVEYING; AND

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 ADDITIONAL 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)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR A MAXIMUM OF 3 YEARS.

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

- (i) [applies for a license on or before December 31, 2025;
- (ii)] is a high school graduate or the equivalent;

(II) HAS A MINIMUM OF 30 CREDIT HOURS OF LAND SURVEYING–RELATED COURSES THAT THE BOARD APPROVES;

(iii) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, has at least **[12] 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

- (iv) has passed the following examinations:

1. FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING;

[1.] 2. the principles and practice of surveying; and

[2.] 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 **ADDITIONAL** 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)(iii) of this subsection for a maximum of 3 years.

[(e)] (F) (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)] beginning on October 1, 2023, possesses a minimum of 32 credit hours of land surveying–related courses that the Board approves;]

(iii) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, has at least **[4] 9** 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;

(iv) has passed the following examinations:

1. fundamentals of surveying;
2. the principles and practice of surveying; and
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)(iii) of this subsection for a maximum of 3 years.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2016.