

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1457
Economic Matters

(Delegates Vaughn and Mautz)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

This bill alters the education and experience requirements for licensure as a professional land surveyor by the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. The bill is not anticipated to materially affect special fund revenues for the State Occupational and Professional Licensing Design Boards' Fund.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The ways in which an applicant qualifies for licensure as a professional land surveyor under the bill are shown in **Exhibit 1**. There are four permanent options and one option that is available through 2025. For each option, in addition to specified education and experience requirements, an applicant must pass the fundamentals of surveying examination, the principles and practice of surveying examination, and, unless excused by the board, State-specific modules.

Exhibit 1
Ways to Qualify for Licensure as Professional Land Surveyor
Under the Bill

Approved Land Surveying Curriculum

- Graduate from a college or university with at least a four-year curriculum in land surveying that the board approves
- Have two years satisfactory experience in land surveying

Physical Sciences or Applied Sciences Curriculum

- Graduate upon completion of at least a four-year curriculum in physical sciences or applied sciences from an accredited college or university
- Have four years satisfactory experience in land surveying*

Other Curriculum and 30 Credit Hours of Approved Courses

- Graduate upon completion of at least a four-year curriculum from an accredited college or university, with a minimum of 30 credit hours of land surveying courses that the board approves
- Have four years satisfactory experience in land surveying*

Six Years Work Experience and 30 Credit Hours of Approved Courses

- Graduate from high school or equivalent
- Have a minimum of 30 credit hours of land surveying-related courses that the board approves
- Have six years satisfactory experience in land surveying*

Nine Years Work Experience (Through December 31, 2025)

- Graduate from high school or equivalent
- Have nine years satisfactory experience in land surveying*

*For each 30 credit hours of completed land surveying courses above specifically required amounts, the board may allow a one-year credit toward the experience requirement for a maximum of three years.

Note: For each option, an applicant must pass the fundamentals of surveying examination, the principles and practice of surveying examination and, unless excused by the board, State-specific modules.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Current Law/Background: There are four combinations of education and experience that qualify an applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor. These combinations were last altered by Chapter 611 of 2014.

Option One: The applicant (1) has graduated on completion of at least a four-year curriculum from an accredited college or university and, beginning October 1, 2023, possesses a minimum of 32 credit hours of land surveying-related courses that the board approves; (2) *on or before September 30, 2017*, has at least *two* years of satisfactory experience in land surveying, but *beginning October 1, 2017*, has at least *four* years of satisfactory experience in land surveying; (3) has passed the examination in the fundamentals of surveying; and (4) has passed the examination in the principles and practice of surveying and, unless excused by the board, State-specific examination modules.

Option Two (Terminates December 31, 2023): The applicant (1) has graduated on completion of at least a four-year curriculum from an accredited college or university; (2) *on or before September 30, 2017*, has at least *four* years of satisfactory experience in land surveying, but beginning *October 1, 2017*, has at least *six* years of satisfactory experience in land surveying; (3) has passed the examination in the fundamentals of surveying; and (4) has passed the examination in the principles and practice of surveying and, unless excused by the board, State-specific examination modules.

Option Three (Terminates December 31, 2025): The applicant (1) is a high school graduate or the equivalent; (2) has at least 12 years of satisfactory experience in land surveying; and (3) has passed the examination in the principles and practice of surveying and, unless excused by the board, State-specific examination modules.

Option Four: The applicant (1) is a high school graduate or the equivalent and, *beginning October 1, 2023*, possesses a minimum of 32 credit hours of land surveying-related courses that the board approves; (2) has at least four years of satisfactory experience in land surveying; (3) has passed the examination in the fundamentals of surveying; and (4) has passed the examination in the principles and practice of surveying and, unless excused by the board, State-specific examination modules.

The board may waive any part of an examination requirement for an individual who is licensed to practice professional land surveying in another state, but the board may require the individual to pass the State-specific exam and any part of a nationally administered exam that the applicant has previously failed.

The board may allow credit toward experience requirements for land surveying-related courses that the board approves.

Background: The board licenses and permits approximately 1,050 individuals, partnerships, and corporations to practice land surveying and property line surveying in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2016
min/mcr

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