

BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATORS AND INSPECTORS**468.609 Administration of this part; standards for certification; additional categories of certification.--**

(1) Except as provided in this part, any person who desires to be certified shall apply to the board, in writing upon forms approved and furnished by the board, to take the certification examination.

(2) A person may take the examination for certification as a building code inspector or plans examiner pursuant to this part if the person:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age.

(b) Is of good moral character.

(c) Meets eligibility requirements according to one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates 5 years' combined experience in the field of construction or a related field, building code inspection, or plans review corresponding to the certification category sought;

2. Demonstrates a combination of postsecondary education in the field of construction or a related field and experience which totals 4 years, with at least 1 year of such total being experience in construction, building code inspection, or plans review;

3. Demonstrates a combination of technical education in the field of construction or a related field and experience which totals 4 years, with at least 1 year of such total being experience in construction, building code inspection, or plans review;

4. Currently holds a standard certificate as issued by the board and satisfactorily completes a building code inspector or plans examiner training program of not less than 200 hours in the certification category sought. The board shall establish by rule criteria for the development and implementation of the training programs; or

5. Demonstrates a combination of the completion of an approved training program in the field of building code inspection or plan review and a minimum of 2 years' experience in the field of building code inspection, plan review, fire code inspections and fire plans review of new buildings as a firesafety inspector certified under s. 633.081(2), or construction. The approved training portion of this requirement shall include proof of satisfactory completion of a training program of not less than 300 hours which is approved by the board in the chosen category of building code inspection or plan review in the certification category sought with not less than 20 hours of instruction in state laws, rules, and ethics relating to professional standards of practice, duties, and responsibilities of a certificateholder. The board shall coordinate with the Building Officials Association of Florida, Inc., to establish by rule the development and implementation of the training program.

(3) A person may take the examination for certification as a building code administrator pursuant to this part if the person:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age.

(b) Is of good moral character.

(c) Meets eligibility requirements according to one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates 10 years' combined experience as an architect, engineer, plans examiner, building code inspector, registered or certified contractor, or construction superintendent, with at least 5 years of such experience in supervisory positions; or

2. Demonstrates a combination of postsecondary education in the field of construction or related field, no more than 5 years of which may be applied, and experience as an architect, engineer, plans examiner, building code inspector, registered or certified contractor,

or construction superintendent which totals 10 years, with at least 5 years of such total being experience in supervisory positions.

~~(d) After the building code training program is established under s. 553.841, demonstrates successful completion of the core curriculum approved by the Florida Building Commission, appropriate to the licensing category sought.~~

(4) No person may engage in the duties of a building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector pursuant to this part after October 1, 1993, unless such person possesses one of the following types of certificates, currently valid, issued by the board attesting to the person's qualifications to hold such position:

- (a) A standard certificate.
- (b) A limited certificate.
- (c) A provisional certificate.

(5)(a) To obtain a standard certificate, an individual must pass an examination approved by the board which demonstrates that the applicant has fundamental knowledge of the state laws and codes relating to the construction of buildings for which the applicant has building code administration, plans examination, or building code inspection responsibilities. It is the intent of the Legislature that the examination approved for certification pursuant to this part be substantially equivalent to the examinations administered by the International Code Council.

(b) A standard certificate shall be issued to each applicant who successfully completes the examination, which certificate authorizes the individual named thereon to practice throughout the state as a building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector within such class and level as is specified by the board.

(c) The board may accept proof that the applicant has passed an examination which is substantially equivalent to the board-approved examination set forth in this section.

(6)(a) A building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector holding office on July 1, 1993, shall not be required to possess a standard certificate as a condition of tenure or continued employment, but shall be required to obtain a limited certificate as described in this subsection.

(b) By October 1, 1993, individuals who were employed on July 1, 1993, as building code administrators, plans examiners, or building code inspectors, who are not eligible for a standard certificate, but who wish to continue in such employment, shall submit to the board the appropriate application and certification fees and shall receive a limited certificate qualifying them to engage in building code administration, plans examination, or building code inspection in the class, at the performance level, and within the governmental jurisdiction in which such person is employed.

(c) The limited certificate shall be valid only as an authorization for the building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector to continue in the position held, and to continue performing all functions assigned to that position, on July 1, 1993.

(d) A building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector holding a limited certificate can be promoted to a position requiring a higher level certificate only upon issuance of a standard certificate or provisional certificate appropriate for such new position.

(e) By March 1, 2003, or 1 year after the Florida Building Code is implemented, whichever is later, individuals who were employed by an educational board, the Department of Education, or the State University System as building code administrators, plans examiners, or inspectors, who do not wish to apply for a standard certificate but who wish to continue in such employment, shall submit to the board the appropriate application and certification fees and shall receive a limited certificate qualifying such individuals to engage in building code administration, plans examination, or inspection in the class, at the

performance level, and within the governmental jurisdiction in which such person is employed.

(7)(a) The board may provide for the issuance of provisional certificates valid for such period, not less than 3 years nor more than 5 years, as specified by board rule, to any newly employed or promoted building code inspector or plans examiner who meets the eligibility requirements described in subsection (2) and any newly employed or promoted building code administrator who meets the eligibility requirements described in subsection (3).

(b) No building code administrator, plans examiner, or building code inspector may have a provisional certificate extended beyond the specified period by renewal or otherwise.

(c) The board may provide for appropriate levels of provisional certificates and may issue these certificates with such special conditions or requirements relating to the place of employment of the person holding the certificate, the supervision of such person on a consulting or advisory basis, or other matters as the board may deem necessary to protect the public safety and health.

(d) A newly employed or hired person may perform the duties of a plans examiner or building code inspector for 120 days if a provisional certificate application has been submitted if such person is under the direct supervision of a certified building code administrator who holds a standard certification and who has found such person qualified for a provisional certificate. Direct supervision and the determination of qualifications may also be provided by a building code administrator who holds a limited or provisional certificate in a county having a population of fewer than 75,000 and in a municipality located within such county.

(8) Any individual applying to the board may be issued a certificate valid for multiple building code inspection classes, as deemed appropriate by the board.

(9) Certification and training classes may be developed in coordination with degree career education centers, community colleges, the State University System, or other entities offering certification and training classes.

(10) The board may by rule create categories of certification in addition to those defined in s. 468.603(6) and (7). Such certification categories shall not be mandatory and shall not act to diminish the scope of any certificate created by statute.

History.--s. 24, ch. 93-166; s. 52, ch. 94-119; s. 8, ch. 98-287; s. 4, ch. 98-419; s. 7, ch. 99-254; s. 34, ch. 2000-141; s. 16, ch. 2000-372; s. 14, ch. 2001-372; s. 3, ch. 2007-187; s. 1, ch. 2007-227.

468.627 Application; examination; renewal; fees.--

(1) The board shall establish by rule fees to be paid for application, examination, reexamination, certification and certification renewal, inactive status application, and reactivation of inactive certificates. The board may establish by rule a late renewal penalty. The board shall establish fees which are adequate, when combined with revenue generated by the provisions of s. 468.631, to ensure the continued operation of this part. Fees shall be based on department estimates of the revenue required to implement this part.

(2) The initial application fee may not exceed \$25 for building code administrators, plans examiners, or building code inspectors.

(3) The initial examination fee may not exceed \$150 for building code administrators, plans examiners, or building code inspectors.

(4) Employees of local government agencies having responsibility for building code inspection, building construction regulation, and enforcement of building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other construction codes shall pay no application fees or examination fees.

(5) The certificateholder shall provide proof, in a form established by board rule, that the certificateholder has completed at least 14 classroom hours of at least 50 minutes each of

continuing education courses during each biennium since the issuance or renewal of the certificate, including the specialized or advanced coursework approved by the Florida Building Commission, as part of the building code training program established pursuant to s. 553.841, appropriate to the licensing category sought. A minimum of 3 of the required 14 classroom hours must be on state law, rules, and ethics relating to professional standards of practice, duties, and responsibilities of the certificateholder. The board shall by rule establish criteria for approval of continuing education courses and providers, and may by rule establish criteria for accepting alternative nonclassroom continuing education on an hour-for-hour basis.

~~(6) Each certificateholder shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses of the building code training program established by s. 553.841, within 2 years after commencement of the program. Each new certificateholder shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses of the building code training program established in s. 553.841 within the first 2-year period after initial licensure. Continuing education hours spent taking such core curriculum courses shall count toward the number required for license renewal.~~

History.--s. 24, ch. 93-166; s. 10, ch. 98-287; s. 6, ch. 98-419; s. 20, ch. 2000-372; s. 5, ch. 2007-227.

ENGINEERS

471.0195 Florida Building Code training for engineers.--All licensees actively participating in the design of engineering works or systems in connection with buildings, structures, or facilities and systems covered by the Florida Building Code shall take continuing education courses and submit proof to the board, at such times and in such manner as established by the board by rule, that the licensee has completed ~~the core curriculum courses~~ and any specialized or advanced courses on any portion of the Florida Building Code applicable to the licensee's area of practice ~~or has passed the appropriate equivalency test of the Building Code Training Program as required by s. 553.841.~~ The board shall record reported continuing education courses on a system easily accessed by code enforcement jurisdictions for evaluation when determining license status for purposes of processing design documents. Local jurisdictions shall be responsible for notifying the board when design documents are submitted for building construction permits by persons who are not in compliance with this section. The board shall take appropriate action as provided by its rules when such noncompliance is determined to exist.

History.--s. 38, ch. 2000-356; s. 23, ch. 2002-299.

ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

481.215 Renewal of license.--

(1) Subject to the requirement of subsection (3), the department shall renew a license upon receipt of the renewal application and renewal fee.

(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for the biennial renewal of licenses.

(3) No license renewal shall be issued to an architect or an interior designer by the department until the licensee submits proof satisfactory to the department that, during the 2 years prior to application for renewal, the licensee participated per biennium in not less than 20 hours of at least 50 minutes each per biennium of continuing education approved by the board. The board shall approve only continuing education that builds upon the basic knowledge of architecture or interior design. The board may make exception from the requirements of continuing education in emergency or hardship cases.

(4) The board shall by rule establish criteria for the approval of continuing education courses and providers and shall by rule establish criteria for accepting alternative nonclassroom continuing education on an hour-for-hour basis.

~~(5) Each licensee shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses, or passing the equivalency test of the Building Code Training Program established by s. 553.841, within 2 years after commencement of the program or after initial licensure, whichever is later. Hours spent taking core curriculum courses shall count toward the number required for license renewal. A licensee who passes the equivalency test in lieu of taking the core curriculum courses shall receive full credit for such core curriculum course hours.~~

~~(6)~~ (5) The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specified number of hours in specialized or advanced courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to part IV of chapter 553, relating to the licensee's respective area of practice.

History.--ss. 9, 19, ch. 79-273; ss. 2, 3, ch. 81-318; ss. 11, 23, 24, ch. 88-383; s. 1, ch. 90-84; s. 22, ch. 90-228; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 156, ch. 94-119; s. 14, ch. 98-287; s. 120, ch. 2000-141; s. 35, ch. 2001-186; s. 4, ch. 2001-372.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

481.313 Renewal of license.--

(1) The department shall renew a license upon receipt of the renewal application and fee.

(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for the biennial renewal of licenses.

(3) No license renewal shall be issued to a landscape architect by the department until the licensee submits proof, satisfactory to the department, that during the 2-year period prior to application for renewal, the licensee participated in such continuing education courses required by the board. The board shall approve only continuing education courses that relate to and increase the basic knowledge of landscape architecture. The board may make an exception from the requirements of continuing education in emergency or hardship cases.

(4) The board, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, shall establish criteria for the approval of continuing education courses and providers, and shall by rule establish criteria for accepting alternative nonclassroom continuing education on an hour-for-hour basis.

~~(5) Each licenseholder shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses, or passing the equivalency test of the Building Code Training Program established by s. 553.841, within 2 years after commencement of the program or of initial licensure, whichever is later. Hours spent taking core curriculum courses shall count toward the number required for license renewal. A licensee who passes the equivalency test in lieu of taking the core curriculum courses shall receive full credit for core curriculum course hours.~~

~~(6)~~ (5) The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specified number of hours in specialized or advanced courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to part IV of chapter 553, relating to the licensee's respective area of practice.

History.--ss. 8, 18, ch. 79-407; ss. 2, 3, ch. 81-318; ss. 18, 19, ch. 88-347; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 238, ch. 94-119; s. 17, ch. 98-287; s. 123, ch. 2000-141; s. 35, ch. 2001-186; s. 4, ch. 2001-372.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

489.115 Certification and registration; endorsement; reciprocity; renewals; continuing education.--

(1) No person may engage in the business of contracting in this state without first being certified or registered in the proper classification.

(2)(a) The department shall issue a certificate or registration to each person qualified by the board and upon receipt of the original license fee.

(b) Certification allows the certificateholder to engage in contracting only for the type of work covered by the certificate and only while the certificate is on active status.

(3) The board shall certify as qualified for certification by endorsement any applicant who:

(a) Meets the requirements for certification as set forth in this section; has passed a national, regional, state, or United States territorial licensing examination that is substantially equivalent to the examination required by this part; and has satisfied the requirements set forth in s. 489.111;

(b) Holds a valid license to practice contracting issued by another state or territory of the United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to Florida's current certification criteria; or

(c) Holds a valid, current license to practice contracting issued by another state or territory of the United States, if the state or territory has entered into a reciprocal agreement with the board for the recognition of contractor licenses issued in that state, based on criteria for the issuance of such licenses that are substantially equivalent to the criteria for certification in this state.

(4)(a) Each certificateholder or registrant who desires to continue as a certificateholder or registrant shall renew the certificate or registration every 2 years. The department shall mail each certificateholder and registrant an application for renewal.

(b)1. Each certificateholder or registrant shall provide proof, in a form established by rule of the board, that the certificateholder or registrant has completed at least 14 classroom hours of at least 50 minutes each of continuing education courses during each biennium since the issuance or renewal of the certificate or registration. The board shall establish by rule that a portion of the required 14 hours must deal with the subject of workers' compensation, business practices, workplace safety, and, for applicable licensure categories, wind mitigation methodologies, and 1 hour of which must deal with laws and rules. The board shall by rule establish criteria for the approval of continuing education courses and providers, including requirements relating to the content of courses and standards for approval of providers, and may by rule establish criteria for accepting alternative nonclassroom continuing education on an hour-for-hour basis. The board shall prescribe by rule the continuing education, if any, which is required during the first biennium of initial licensure. A person who has been licensed for less than an entire biennium must not be required to complete the full 14 hours of continuing education.

2. In addition, the board may approve specialized continuing education courses on compliance with the wind resistance provisions for one and two family dwellings contained in the Florida Building Code and any alternate methodologies for providing such wind resistance which have been approved for use by the Florida Building Commission. Division I certificateholders or registrants who demonstrate proficiency upon completion of such specialized courses may certify plans and specifications for one and two family dwellings to be in compliance with the code or alternate methodologies, as appropriate, except for dwellings located in floodways or coastal hazard areas as defined in ss. 60.3D and E of the National Flood Insurance Program.

~~3. Each certificateholder or registrant shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses, or passing the equivalency test of the Building Code Training Program established under s. 553.841, specific to the licensing category sought, within 2~~

~~years after commencement of the program or of initial certification or registration, whichever is later. Classroom hours spent taking core curriculum courses shall count toward the number required for renewal of certificates or registration. A certificateholder or registrant who passes the equivalency test in lieu of taking the core curriculum courses shall receive full credit for core curriculum course hours.~~

4. 3. The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specified number of hours in specialized or advanced module courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to 1part IV of chapter 553, relating to the contractor's respective discipline.

(c) The certificateholder or registrant shall complete, sign, and forward the renewal application to the department, together with the appropriate fee. Upon receipt of the application and fee, the department shall renew the certificate or registration.

(5)(a) As a prerequisite to the initial issuance or the renewal of a certificate or registration, the applicant shall submit an affidavit on a form provided by the board attesting to the fact that the applicant has obtained workers' compensation insurance as required by chapter 440, public liability insurance, and property damage insurance for the safety and welfare of the public, in amounts determined by rule of the board. The board shall by rule establish a procedure to verify the accuracy of such affidavits based upon a random sample method.

(b) In addition to the affidavit of insurance, as a prerequisite to the initial issuance of a certificate, the applicant shall furnish a credit report from a nationally recognized credit agency that reflects the financial responsibility of the applicant and evidence of financial responsibility, credit, and business reputation of either himself or herself or the business organization he or she desires to qualify. The board shall adopt rules defining financial responsibility based upon the applicant's credit history, ability to be bonded, and any history of bankruptcy or assignment of receivers. The board may also adopt rules that would allow applicants to demonstrate financial responsibility, as an alternative to the foregoing, by providing minimum credit scores or bonds payable as prescribed for financially responsible officers. Such rules shall specify the financial responsibility grounds on which the board may refuse to qualify an applicant for certification.

(c) If, within 60 days from the date the applicant is notified that he or she has qualified, he or she does not provide the evidence required, he or she shall apply to the department for an extension of time which shall be granted upon a showing of just cause.

(d) An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate or registration shall submit as a prerequisite to qualifying for an exemption from workers' compensation coverage requirements under s. 440.05 an affidavit attesting to the fact that the applicant will obtain an exemption within 30 days after the date the initial certificate or registration is issued by the board.

(6) An applicant for initial issuance of a certificate or registration shall submit to a statewide criminal history records check through the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation shall submit the requests for the criminal history records check to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall return the results to the department to determine if the applicant meets certification or registration requirements. If the applicant has been convicted of a felony, the board may deny licensure to the applicant based upon the severity of the crime, the relationship of the crime to contracting, or the potential for public harm. The board shall also, in denying or approving licensure, consider the length of time since the commission of the crime and the rehabilitation of the applicant. The board may not

deny licensure to an applicant based solely upon a felony conviction or the applicant's failure to provide proof of restoration of civil rights.

(7) An initial applicant shall, along with the application, and a certificateholder or registrant shall, upon requesting a change of status, submit to the board a credit report from a nationally recognized credit agency that reflects the financial responsibility of the applicant or certificateholder or registrant. The credit report required for the initial applicant shall be considered the minimum evidence necessary to satisfy the board that he or she is financially responsible to be certified, has the necessary credit and business reputation to engage in contracting in the state, and has the minimum financial stability necessary to avoid the problem of financial mismanagement or misconduct. The board shall, by rule, adopt guidelines for determination of financial stability, which may include minimum requirements for net worth, cash, and bonding for Division I certificateholders of no more than \$20,000 and for Division II certificateholders of no more than \$10,000. Fifty percent of the financial requirements may be met by completing a 14-hour financial responsibility course approved by the board.

(8) If a certificateholder or registrant holds a license under both this part and part II and is required to have continuing education courses under s. 489.517(3), the certificateholder or registrant may apply those course hours for workers' compensation, workplace safety, and business practices obtained under part II to the requirements under this part.

(9) An initial applicant shall submit, along with the application, a complete set of fingerprints in a form and manner required by the department. The fingerprints shall be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward them to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a level 2 background check pursuant to s. 435.04. The department shall and the board may review the background results to determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. The cost for the fingerprint processing shall be borne by the person subject to the background screening. These fees are to be collected by the authorized agencies or vendors. The authorized agencies or vendors are responsible for paying the processing costs to the Department of Law Enforcement.

History.--ss. 7, 17, ch. 79-200; ss. 2, 3, ch. 81-318; s. 85, ch. 83-329; ss. 8, 20, 21, ch. 88-156; s. 2, ch. 89-5; s. 33, ch. 89-374; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 60, ch. 92-149; s. 10, ch. 93-166; s. 75, ch. 93-415; s. 259, ch. 94-119; s. 6, ch. 94-284; s. 482, ch. 97-103; s. 8, ch. 97-228; s. 3, ch. 98-116; ss. 20, 21, ch. 98-287; s. 29, ch. 98-419; ss. 41, 42, ch. 2000-141; s. 31, ch. 2001-91; s. 35, ch. 2001-186; s. 4, ch. 2001-372; s. 3, ch. 2007-86; s. 2, ch. 2007-126; s. 6, ch. 2007-227.

¹Note.--The Florida Building Code is covered in part IV, ch. 653.

²Note.--The word "of" was inserted by the editors.

JOURNEYMEN (UNDER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS)

489.1455 Journeyman; reciprocity; standards.--

(1) An individual who holds a valid, active journeyman license in the plumbing/pipe fitting, mechanical, or HVAC trades issued by any county or municipality in this state may work as a journeyman in the trade in which he or she is licensed in any county or municipality of this state without taking an additional examination or paying an additional license fee, if he or she:

(a) Has scored at least 70 percent, or after October 1, 1997, at least 75 percent, on a proctored journeyman Block and Associates examination or other proctored examination approved by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed;

(b) Has completed an apprenticeship program registered with the ¹Department of Labor and Employment Security and demonstrates 4 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed, or demonstrates 6 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed;

(c) Has satisfactorily completed specialized and advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building Commission, as part of the Building Code Training Program established in s. 553.841, specific to the discipline, ~~and successfully completed the program's core curriculum courses or passed an equivalency test in lieu of taking the core curriculum courses and provided proof of completion of such curriculum courses or examination and obtained a certificate from the board pursuant to this part~~ or, pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, provides proof of completion of such curriculum or coursework within 6 months after such certification; and

(d) Has not had a license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years.

(2) A local government may charge a registration fee for reciprocity, not to exceed \$25.

History.--s. 15, ch. 97-228; s. 25, ch. 98-287.

1Note.--Section 69, ch. 2002-194, repealed s. 20.171, which created the Department of Labor and Employment Security.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

489.517 Renewal of certificate or registration; continuing education.--

(1) The department shall renew a certificate or registration upon receipt of the renewal application and fee and proof of meeting all continuing education requirements.

(2) The department shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for the biennial renewal of certificates and registrations.

(3)(a) Each certificateholder or registrant shall provide proof, in a form established by rule of the board, that the certificateholder or registrant has completed at least 14 classroom hours of at least 50 minutes each of continuing education courses during each biennium since the issuance or renewal of the certificate or registration. The board shall by rule establish criteria for the approval of continuing education courses and providers and may by rule establish criteria for accepting alternative nonclassroom continuing education on an hour-for-hour basis.

~~(b) Each certificateholder or registrant shall provide to the board proof of completion of the core curriculum courses or passing the equivalency test of the Building Code Training Program established under s. 553.841, specific to the licensing category sought, within 2 years after commencement of the program or of initial certification or registration, whichever is later. Classroom hours spent taking core curriculum courses shall count toward the number required for renewal of certificate or registration. A certificateholder or registrant who passes the equivalency test in lieu of taking the core curriculum courses shall receive full credit for core curriculum course hours.~~

(4)(a) If a certificateholder or registrant holds a license under both this part and part I and is required to have continuing education courses under s. 489.115(4)(b)1., the certificateholder or registrant may apply those course hours for workers' compensation, workplace safety, and business practices obtained under part I to the requirements under this part.

(b) Of the 14 classroom hours of continuing education required, at least 7 hours must be on technical subjects, 1 hour on workers' compensation, 1 hour on workplace safety, 1 hour on business practices, and for alarm system contractors and electrical contractors engaged in alarm system contracting, 2 hours on false alarm prevention.

(5) By applying for renewal, each certificateholder or registrant certifies that he or she has continually maintained the required amounts of public liability and property damage insurance as specified by board rule. The board shall establish by rule a procedure to verify the public liability and property damage insurance for a specified period, based upon a random sampling method.

(6) The board shall require, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, a specialized number of hours in specialized or advanced module courses, approved by the Florida Building Commission, on any portion of the Florida Building Code, adopted pursuant to part IV of chapter 553, relating to the contractor's respective discipline.

History.--ss. 8, 17, ch. 79-272; ss. 2, 3, ch. 81-318; ss. 9, 21, 23, ch. 88-149; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 277, ch. 94-119; s. 27, ch. 98-287; s. 41, ch. 98-419; s. 1, ch. 2004-76.

FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION TRAINING PROGRAM

553.841 Building code compliance and mitigation program.--

(1) The Legislature finds that knowledge and understanding by persons licensed in the design and construction industries of the importance and need for complying with the Florida Building Code is vital to the public health, safety, and welfare of this state, especially for mitigating damage caused by hurricanes to residents and visitors to the state. The Legislature further finds that the Florida Building Code can be effective only if all participants in the design and construction industries maintain a thorough knowledge of the code and additions thereto which improve construction standards to protect against storm and other damage. Consequently, the Legislature finds that there is a need for a program to provide ongoing education and outreach activities concerning compliance with the Florida Building Code and hurricane mitigation.

(2) The Department of Community Affairs shall administer a program, designated as the Florida Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program, to develop, coordinate, and maintain education and outreach to persons required to comply with the Florida Building Code and ensure consistent education, training, and communication of the code's requirements, including, but not limited to, methods for mitigation of storm-related damage. The program shall also operate a clearinghouse through which design, construction, and building code enforcement licensees, suppliers, and consumers in this state may find others in order to exchange information relating to mitigation and facilitate repairs in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

(3) All services and materials under the Florida Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program must be provided by a private, nonprofit corporation under contract with the department. The term of the contract shall be for 4 years, with the option of one 4-year renewal at the end of the contract term. The initial contract must be in effect no later than November 1, 2007. The private, nonprofit corporation must be an organization whose membership includes trade and professional organizations whose members consist primarily of persons and entities that are required to comply with the Florida Building Code and that are licensed under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489. When selecting the private, nonprofit corporation for the program, the department must give primary consideration to the corporation's demonstrated experience and the ability to:

(a) Develop and deliver building code-related education, training, and outreach;

(b) Directly access the majority of persons licensed in the occupations of design, construction, and building code enforcement individually and through established statewide trade and professional association networks;

(c) Serve as a clearinghouse to deliver education and outreach throughout the state. The clearinghouse must serve as a focal point at which persons licensed to design, construct, and enforce building codes and suppliers and consumers can find each other in order to exchange information relating to mitigation and facilitate repairs in the aftermath of a natural disaster;

(d) Accept input from the Florida Building Commission, licensing regulatory boards, local building departments, and the design and construction industries in order to improve its education and outreach programs; and

(e) Promote design and construction techniques and materials for mitigating hurricane damage at a Florida-based trade conference that includes participants from the broadest possible range of design and construction trades and professions, including from those private and public sector entities having jurisdiction over building codes and design and construction licensure.

(4) The department, in administering the Florida Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program, shall maintain, update, develop, or cause to be developed:

~~(a) A core curriculum that is prerequisite to the advanced module coursework.~~

~~(b) A advanced modules designed for use by each profession.~~

~~(c) The core curriculum developed under this subsection must be submitted to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for approval. Advanced modules developed under this paragraph must be approved by the commission and submitted to the respective boards for approval.~~

~~(5) The core curriculum shall cover the information required to have all categories of participants appropriately informed as to their technical and administrative responsibilities in the effective execution of the code process by all individuals currently licensed under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489, except as otherwise provided in s. 471.017. The core curriculum shall be prerequisite to the advanced module coursework for all licensees and shall be completed by individuals licensed in all categories under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489 within the first 2-year period after initial licensure. Core course hours taken by licensees to complete this requirement shall count toward fulfillment of required continuing education units under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489.~~

(6) (5) Each biennium, upon receipt of funds by the Department of Community Affairs from the Construction Industry Licensing Board and the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board provided under ss. 489.109(3) and 489.509(3), the department shall determine the amount of funds available for the Florida Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program.

(7) (6) If the projects provided through the Florida Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program in any state fiscal year do not require the use of all available funds, the unused funds shall be carried forward and allocated for use during the following fiscal year.

(8) (7) The Florida Building Commission shall provide by rule for the accreditation of courses related to the Florida Building Code by accreditors approved by the commission. The commission shall establish qualifications of accreditors and criteria for the accreditation of courses by rule. The commission may revoke the accreditation of a course by an accreditor if the accreditation is demonstrated to violate this part or the rules of the commission.

(9) (8) This section does not prohibit or limit the subject areas or development of continuing education or training on the Florida Building Code by any qualified entity.

History.--s. 52, ch. 98-287; s. 89, ch. 2000-141; s. 59, ch. 2004-357; s. 14, ch. 2005-147; s. 7, ch. 2007-187.