A bill to be entitled
An act relating to building code administrators and inspectors; amending s. 468.603, F.S.; revising and defining terms; amending s. 468.609, F.S.; creating an internship path to certification as an inspector or plans examiner; specifying requirements for the internship periods; requiring the board to authorize specified candidates for certification as building code inspectors or plans examiners to perform duties during a specified period after initial application, to apply for a 1-year provisional certificate under certain circumstances, and to apply for standard certification within a certain time before completing the internship period; deleting being newly hired or promoted as a condition for eligibility to qualify for a provisional certificate; requiring rulemaking; requiring the board to develop a form to transfer internship periods completed in other jurisdictions under certain circumstances; requiring the board to develop an electronic application for standard certification for certain persons; authorizing persons to seek additional certifications if they meet certain requirements; conforming cross-references; amending s. 553.791, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “private provider”; conforming cross-references; amending ss. 471.045 and 481.222, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 468.603, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:
468.603 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(2) "Building code administrator" or "building official" means any of those employees of municipal or county governments with building construction regulation responsibilities who are charged with the responsibility for direct regulatory administration or supervision of plan review, enforcement, or inspection of building construction, erection, repair, addition, remodeling, demolition, or alteration projects that require permitting indicating compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other construction codes as required by state law or municipal or county ordinance. This term is synonymous with “building official” as used in the administrative chapter of the Standard Building Code and the South Florida Building Code. One person employed by each municipal or county government as a building code administrator or building official and who is so certified under this part may be authorized to perform any plan review or inspection for which certification is required by this part, including performing any plan review or inspection as a currently designated standard certified building official under an interagency service agreement with a jurisdiction of population 50,000 or fewer.

(4) "Building code inspector" means any of those employees of local governments or state agencies with building construction regulation responsibilities who themselves conduct inspections of building construction, erection, repair, addition, or alteration projects that require permitting indicating compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and
other construction codes as required by state law or municipal
or county ordinance.

(1) “Board” means the Florida Building Code
Administrators and Inspectors Board.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Business and
Professional Regulation.

(6) “Certificate” means a certificate of qualification
issued by the department as provided in this part.

(5) “Categories of building code inspectors” include the
following:

(a) “Building inspector” means a person who is qualified to
inspect and determine that buildings and structures are
constructed in accordance with the provisions of the governing
building codes and state accessibility laws.

(b) “Coastal construction inspector” means a person who is
qualified to inspect and determine that buildings and structures
are constructed to resist near-hurricane and hurricane velocity
winds in accordance with the provisions of the governing
building code.

(c) “Commercial electrical inspector” means a person who is
qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of
commercial buildings and structures by inspecting for compliance
with the provisions of the National Electrical Code.

(d) “Residential electrical inspector” means a person who
is qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of
one and two family dwellings and accessory structures by
inspecting for compliance with the applicable provisions of the
governing electrical code.

(e) “Mechanical inspector” means a person who is qualified
to inspect and determine that the mechanical installations and systems for buildings and structures are in compliance with the provisions of the governing mechanical code.

(f) “Plumbing inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that the plumbing installations and systems for buildings and structures are in compliance with the provisions of the governing plumbing code.

(g) “One and two family dwelling inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that one and two family dwellings and accessory structures are constructed in accordance with the provisions of the governing building, plumbing, mechanical, accessibility, and electrical codes.

(h) “Electrical inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of commercial and residential buildings and accessory structures by inspecting for compliance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code.

(8)(7) “Plans examiner” means a person who is qualified to determine that plans submitted for purposes of obtaining building and other permits comply with the applicable building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other applicable construction codes.

Categories of plans examiners include:

(a) Building plans examiner.
(b) Plumbing plans examiner.
(c) Mechanical plans examiner.
(d) Electrical plans examiner.

(3)(6) “Building code enforcement official” or “enforcement official” means a licensed building code administrator, building code inspector, or plans examiner.
(9) “Residential plans examiner” means a person who is qualified to determine whether plans submitted for purposes of obtaining building and other permits comply with the applicable residential building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, energy, accessibility, and other construction codes.

Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (7), and subsection (10) of section 468.609, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (11) and (12) are added to that section, to read:

468.609 Administration of this part; standards for certification; additional categories of certification.—

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

(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 issued by the board or a firesafety inspector license issued pursuant to chapter 633, has a minimum of 3 years’ verifiable full-time experience in inspection or plan review, and has satisfactorily completed a building code inspector or plans examiner training program that provides at least 100 hours but not more than 200 hours of cross-training in the certification category sought. The board shall establish by rule criteria for the development and implementation of the training programs. The board shall accept all classroom training offered by an approved provider if the content substantially meets the intent of the classroom component of the training program;

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. 633.216, or construction. The approved training portion of this requirement shall include proof of satisfactory completion of a training program that provides at least 200 hours but not more than 300 hours of cross-training that is approved by the board in the chosen category of building code inspection or plan review in the certification category sought with at least 20 hours but not more than 30 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. However, the board shall accept all classroom training offered by an approved provider if the content substantially meets the intent of the classroom component of the training program; or

6. Currently holds a standard certificate issued by the board or a firesafety inspector license issued pursuant to chapter 633 and:
   a. Has at least 5 years’ verifiable full-time experience as an inspector or plans examiner in a standard certification category currently held or has a minimum of 5 years’ verifiable full-time experience as a firesafety inspector licensed pursuant to chapter 633.
   b. Has satisfactorily completed a building code inspector or plans examiner classroom training course or program that provides at least 200 but not more than 300 hours in the certification category sought, except for one-family and two-family dwelling training programs, which must provide at least 500 but not more than 800 hours of training as prescribed by the board. The board shall establish by rule criteria for the development and implementation of classroom training courses and programs in each certification category; or

7. Completes an inspector or plans examiner internship certification program that includes all of the following:
   a. Passing an International Code Council (ICC) administered examination in the category sought prior to beginning a 4-year internship while employed full time by a Florida municipality, county, or other governmental jurisdiction under the direct supervision of a standard certified, government employed, sponsoring building official. A related vocational or college
degree attained or verifiable on-the-job experience may reduce
the internship period year-for-year to no less than 1 year.

b. Passing the State of Florida Principles and Practice
exam prior to completing the internship period.

c. Passing a Building Code Administrator and Inspectors
Board (BCAIB) approved 40-hour code training in the category
sought before completing the internship period.

d. Obtaining a favorable recommendation from the sponsoring
building official upon completion of the internship period.

(7)(a) The board shall provide for the issuance of
provisional certificates valid for 1 year, 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). The provisional
license may be renewed by the board for just cause; however, a
provisional license is not valid for longer than 3 years.

(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.
(10) The board may by rule create categories of certification in addition to those defined in s. 468.603(5) and (8) and (7). Such certification categories shall not be mandatory and shall not act to diminish the scope of any certificate created by statute.

(11) The board shall by rule:

(a) Establish a procedure to determine reciprocity for an ICC examination administered by another state.

(b) Authorize candidates under subparagraph (2)(c) to:

1. Perform duties during the first 120 days after initial application submittal to the board.

2. Apply for a 1-year provisional certificate before completing the internship period if the candidate has not passed the principles and practice exam or 40-hour code training course.

3. Apply for standard certification at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before completing the internship period.

(c) Develop a form to authorize candidates under subparagraph (2)(c) to transfer approved partial internship periods completed in other jurisdictions.

(d) Develop an electronic application for standard certification of interns who successfully complete the program described in subparagraph (2)(c).

(12) After achieving initial standard certification, a person may seek additional certifications in other categories by completing additional nonconcurrent internship programs when passing an ICC examination, passing a BCAIB approved 40-hour code training, and completing an additional 1-year, full-time internship in the respective category sought. Any person holding...
a standard certification may seek additional certifications.

Section 3. Paragraphs (d) and (i) of subsection (1) of section 553.791, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

553.791 Alternative plans review and inspection.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(d) “Building code inspection services” means those services described in s. 468.603(5) s. 468.603(6) and (8) (7) involving the review of building plans to determine compliance with applicable codes and those inspections required by law of each phase of construction for which permitting by a local enforcement agency is required to determine compliance with applicable codes.

(i) “Private provider” means a person licensed as a building code administrator under part XII of chapter 468, as an engineer under chapter 471, or as an architect under chapter 481. For purposes of performing inspections under this section for additions and alterations that are limited to 1,000 square feet or less to residential buildings, the term “private provider” also includes a person who holds a standard certificate under part XII of chapter 468.

Section 4. Section 471.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

471.045 Professional engineers performing building code inspector duties.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is currently licensed under this chapter to practice as a professional engineer may provide building code inspection services described in s. 468.603(5) s. 468.603(6) and (8) (7) to a local government or state agency upon its request, without being certified by the Florida Building Code Administrators and
Inspectors Board under part XII of chapter 468. When performing these building code inspection services, the professional engineer is subject to the disciplinary guidelines of this chapter and s. 468.621(1)(c)-(h). Any complaint processing, investigation, and discipline that arise out of a professional engineer’s performing building code inspection services shall be conducted by the Board of Professional Engineers rather than the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board. A professional engineer may not perform plans review as an employee of a local government upon any job that the professional engineer or the professional engineer’s company designed.

Section 5. Section 481.222, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

481.222 Architects performing building code inspection services.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is currently licensed to practice as an architect under this part may provide building code inspection services described in s. 468.603(5), s. 468.603(6), and (8) to a local government or state agency upon its request, without being certified by the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board under part XII of chapter 468. With respect to the performance of such building code inspection services, the architect is subject to the disciplinary guidelines of this part and s. 468.621(1)(c)-(h). Any complaint processing, investigation, and discipline that arise out of an architect’s performance of building code inspection services shall be conducted by the Board of Architecture and Interior Design rather than the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board. An architect
Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.