

Chapter 454

(Senate Bill 280)

AN ACT concerning

Landscape Architects – License Renewal – Continuing Professional Competency Requirement

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects to adopt regulations to require a licensee to demonstrate continuing professional competency by completing a certain number of hours of professional development activities as a condition of renewal of a license to practice landscape architecture; providing for the implementation of the continuing professional competency requirement on a phased-in basis; and generally relating to licenses issued by the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 9–309
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 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

9–309.

(a) Unless a license is renewed for a 2-year term as provided in this section, the license expires on the first June 30 that comes:

- (1) after the effective date of the license; and
- (2) in an even-numbered year.

(b) At least 1 month before a license expires, the Board shall mail to the licensee, at the last known address of the licensee:

- (1) a renewal application form; and
- (2) a notice that states:

- (i) the date on which the current license expires;
- (ii) the date by which the Board must receive the renewal application for the renewal to be issued and mailed before the license expires; and
- (iii) the amount of the license fee.

(c) Before a license expires, the licensee periodically may renew it for an additional 2-year term, if the licensee:

- (1) otherwise is entitled to be licensed;
- (2) pays to the Board the license fee set by the Board; and
- (3) submits to the Board a renewal application on the form that the Board provides.

(d) The Board shall renew the license of each licensee who meets the requirements of this section.

(e) The Secretary may determine that licenses issued under this subtitle shall expire on a staggered basis.

(F) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

(1) TO REQUIRE A LICENSEE TO DEMONSTRATE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY BY COMPLETING AT LEAST 24 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AS A CONDITION OF RENEWAL OF A LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(I) THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FIRST RENEWAL OF A LICENSE;

(II) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, A LICENSEE IS NOT REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT;

(III) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2015, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, A LICENSEE IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL 50% OF THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT AS PROVIDED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(IV) IF A LICENSE EXPIRES ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2016, A LICENSEE IS REQUIRED TO FULFILL THE FULL CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT AS PROVIDED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2013.