

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7986

## IN SENATE

March 6, 2020

Introduced by Sen. STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to continuing education for professional engineers, land surveyors and professional geologists; and to repeal section 7212 of the education law relating to mandatory continuing education for land surveyors

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 7211 of the education law, as added by chapter 146  
2 of the laws of 2002, paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 as amended by  
3 section 8 of part B of chapter 103 of the laws of 2004, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 § 7211. Mandatory continuing education for professional engineers,  
6 land surveyors and professional geologists. 1. (a) Each licensed  
7 professional engineer required under this article to register triennial-  
8 ly with the department to practice in this state shall comply with  
9 provisions of the mandatory continuing education requirements prescribed  
10 in subdivision two of this section except as set forth in paragraphs (b)  
11 and (c) of this subdivision. [~~Professional engineers~~] Licensed profes-  
12 sionals who do not satisfy the mandatory continuing education require-  
13 ments shall not practice until they have met such requirements, and have  
14 been issued a registration certificate, except that a licensed profes-  
15 sional [~~engineer~~] may practice without having met such requirements if  
16 he or she is issued a conditional registration certificate pursuant to  
17 subdivision three of this section. For purposes of this section the term  
18 "licensed professional" shall mean any individual licensed under this  
19 article as a professional engineer, land surveyor or professional geolo-  
20 gist.

21 (b) [~~Professional engineers~~] Licensed professionals shall be exempt  
22 from the mandatory continuing education requirement for the triennial  
23 registration period during which they are first licensed. In accordance  
24 with the intent of this section, adjustment to the mandatory continuing  
25 education requirement may be granted by the department for reasons of  
26 health certified by an appropriate health care professional, for

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[~~-~~] is old law to be omitted.

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1 extended active duty with the armed forces of the United States, or for  
2 other good cause acceptable to the department which may prevent compli-  
3 ance.

4 (c) A licensed professional [~~engineer~~] not engaged in practice as  
5 determined by the department[7] shall be exempt from the mandatory  
6 continuing education requirement upon the filing of a statement with the  
7 department declaring such status. Any licensee who returns to the prac-  
8 tice of [~~professional engineering~~] his or her profession during the  
9 triennial registration period shall notify the department prior to reen-  
10 tering the profession and shall meet such mandatory education require-  
11 ments as shall be prescribed by regulations of the commissioner.

12 (d) Professional engineers directly employed on a full time basis by  
13 the state of New York, its agencies, public authorities, public benefit  
14 corporations or local governmental units prior to January first, two  
15 thousand four and who are represented by a collective bargaining unit or  
16 who are designated managerial or confidential pursuant to article four-  
17 teen of the civil service law, at all times when so employed shall be  
18 deemed to have satisfied the continuing education requirements of this  
19 section, provided however that any such licensees who thereafter leave  
20 such employment and enter the practice of professional engineering in  
21 other capacities in New York, or otherwise engage in such practice,  
22 shall satisfy the requirements of this section in such manner as shall  
23 be prescribed by regulations of the commissioner.

24 (e) Professional geologists directly employed on a full-time basis by  
25 the state of New York, its agencies, public authorities, public benefit  
26 corporations or local governmental units prior to January first, two  
27 thousand twenty-two and who are represented by a collective bargaining  
28 unit or who are designated managerial or confidential pursuant to arti-  
29 cle fourteen of the civil service law, at all times when so employed  
30 shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing education requirements  
31 of this section, provided however that any such licensees who thereafter  
32 leave such employment and enter the practice of professional geology in  
33 other capacities in New York, or otherwise engage in such practice,  
34 shall satisfy the requirements of this section in such manner as shall  
35 be prescribed by regulations of the commissioner.

36 2. During each triennial registration period an applicant for regis-  
37 tration as a professional engineer and/or a professional geologist shall  
38 complete a minimum of thirty-six hours of acceptable continuing educa-  
39 tion[7] and an applicant for registration as a land surveyor shall  
40 complete a minimum of twenty-four hours of acceptable continuing educa-  
41 tion as specified in subdivision four of this section[~~7, provided that no~~  
42 ~~more than eighteen hours of such continuing education may consist of~~  
43 ~~non-course activities~~]. Any professional [~~engineer~~] geologist whose  
44 first registration date following the effective date of the chapter of  
45 the laws of two thousand twenty which amended this section occurs less  
46 than three years from such effective date, but on or after [~~January~~  
47 ~~first, two thousand five~~] January first, two thousand twenty-three,  
48 shall complete continuing education hours on a prorated basis at the  
49 rate of one hour per month for the period beginning [~~January first, two~~  
50 ~~thousand four~~] January first, two thousand twenty-two up to the first  
51 registration date thereafter. A licensee who has not satisfied the  
52 mandatory continuing education requirements shall not be issued a trien-  
53 nial registration certificate by the department and shall not practice  
54 unless and until a conditional registration certificate is issued as  
55 provided for in subdivision three of this section. With the exception of  
56 continuing education hours taken during the registration period imme-

diately preceding the effective date of this section, [~~continuing education hours taken during one triennium may not be transferred to a subsequent triennium~~] no more than six continuing education hours taken during one triennium may be transferred to a subsequent triennium.

3. The department, in its discretion, may issue a conditional registration to a licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements established in subdivision two of this section but who agrees to make up any deficiencies and complete any additional education which the department may require. The fee for such a conditional registration shall be the same as, and in addition to, the fee for the triennial registration. The duration of such conditional registration shall be determined by the department but shall not exceed one year. Any licensee who is notified of the denial of registration for failure to submit evidence, satisfactory to the department, of required continuing education and who practices [~~professional engineering~~] a licensed profession without such registration, may be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to section sixty-five hundred ten of this title.

4. As used in subdivision two of this section, "acceptable continuing education" shall mean courses of learning and educational activities [~~which~~] in architecture, engineering, interior design, land surveying, landscape architecture and geology that may contribute to professional practice in professional engineering, land surveying and/or geology and which meet the standards prescribed by regulations of the commissioner. Completing courses of learning and educational activities that fall within the scope of practice of another licensed profession does not authorize the licensed professional engineer, licensed land surveyor or licensed professional geologist to lawfully practice a profession that they are not authorized to practice as defined in sections seventy-two hundred one, seventy-two hundred three and seventy-two hundred four of this title. The department may, in its discretion and as needed to contribute to the health and welfare of the public, require the completion of continuing education courses in specific subjects.

5. [~~Professional engineers~~] Licensed professionals shall maintain adequate documentation of completion of acceptable continuing education and educational activities and shall provide such documentation at the request of the department.

6. The mandatory continuing education fee shall be forty-five dollars, shall be payable on or before the first day of each triennial registration period, and shall be paid in addition to the triennial registration [~~fee~~] fees required by [~~section~~] sections seventy-two hundred six, seventy-two hundred six-a, and seventy-two hundred six-b of this article.

§ 2. Section 7212 of the education law is REPEALED.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on January first, two thousand twenty-two.