STATE OF NEW YORK

5205

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 27, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the real property law, in relation to authorizing certain continuing education courses to be completed online

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 794 of the general business law, as amended by chapter 301 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

1. Prior to the expiration of a certificate of registration and as a condition of renewal, each hearing aid dispenser registered pursuant to subdivision one of section seven hundred ninety of this article shall submit documentation showing successful completion of twenty continuing education credits through a course or courses approved by the secretary in consultation with the advisory board, or, in relation to audiologists licensed pursuant to article one hundred fifty-nine of the education law, the office of the professions in the education department. Such formal courses of learning shall include, but not be limited to, collegiate level of credit in non-credit courses, professional development programs and technical sessions offered by national, state and local professional associations and other organizations acceptable to the secretary and any other organized educational and technical programs acceptable to the secretary. The secretary may, in his or her discretion, and as needed to contribute to the health and welfare of the public, require the completion of continuing education courses in specific subjects to fulfill this mandatory continuing education requirement. Courses shall be taken from a sponsor approved by the secretary pursuant to regulations promulgated pursuant to this section. **Courses may be completed online, provided that such online course meets the requirements of this section and is approved by the secretary.**

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

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§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 791 of the general business law, as added by chapter 599 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

(b) continuing education including but not limited to (i) the content of such course of study, (ii) the procedures for approval of such course of study [~~and~~], (iii) those individuals and organizations who may permissibly offer such continuing education course or courses provided for in section seven hundred ninety-four of this article**, and (iv) the format of such course of study when such course is given in an online setting**;

§ 3. The real property law is amended by adding a new section 444-r to read as follows:

§ 444-r. Continuing education. Continuing education courses required for licensure pursuant to section four hundred forty-four-f of this article may be completed online provided that such course is approved by the secretary.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.