

Senate Bill 374

By: Senators Walker III of the 20th, Strickland of the 17th, Ginn of the 47th, Halpern of the 39th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 15 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the
2 "Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Act of 2021," so as to change provisions
3 relating to land surveyor interns and professional land surveyors; to provide for educational
4 requirements; to provide for apprenticeships; to provide for a short title; to provide for related
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 15 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Professional
9 Engineers and Land Surveyors Act of 2021," is amended by revising Code Section 43-15-1
10 as follows:

11 "43-15-1.

12 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the ~~'Professional Engineers and Land~~
13 ~~Surveyors Act of 2021'~~ 'Professional Land Surveyor Licensure Modernization Act of 2024'
14 and is enacted to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-15-12, relating to surveyor intern certificate and eligibility, as follows:

"43-15-12.

~~(a) To~~ In addition to the requirements provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Code section, to be eligible for certification as a land surveyor intern, an applicant must meet any one of the following minimum education requirements:

(1)(A) Earn a bachelor's degree in a curriculum approved by the board;

(B) Earn an associate degree, or its equivalent, in a curriculum approved by the board; ~~and acquire not less than two years of combined office and field experience in land surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board;~~ or

(C) Earn a high school diploma, or its equivalent, ~~and acquire not less than four years' experience in land surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board;~~

(2) ~~Acquire~~ If not already included in a course of study, in addition to meeting any one of the education requirements provided in paragraph (1) of this Code section, an applicant shall acquire a minimum of 18 semester hours of credit, or its equivalent, in land surveying subjects ~~in a course of study approved by the board; and~~

(3) ~~Subsequently~~ Upon attainment of any one of the education requirements provided in paragraph (1) of this Code section and, when necessary, completion of the 18 credit hours in land surveying subjects as provided in paragraph (2) of this Code section, an applicant shall subsequently pass the board approved surveyor examination ~~in on~~ the fundamentals of land surveying ~~(land surveyor intern examination).~~

~~(b) Land surveyor intern applicants may apply prior to July 1, 2020, with 15 quarter hours of credit in land surveying subjects in a course of study approved by the board and five quarter hours in hydrology. Such applicants applying prior to July 1, 2020, who meet the requirements of this subsection shall be eligible for licensure without the hydrology exam."~~

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 43-15-13, relating to professional land surveyor license and eligibility, as follows:

"43-15-13.

To be eligible for a license as a professional land surveyor, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

(1)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor intern under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-15-12;

~~(B) Acquire a specific record of the equivalent of not less than four years of combined office and field experience in land surveying with a minimum of three years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying projects under the supervision of a professional land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof;~~ Pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying as approved by the board;

~~(C) Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and the laws of this state relating to land surveying (professional land surveyor examination);~~

(C) Acquire a specific record of the equivalent of not less than three years of experience in land surveying that includes completion of a two-year land surveying apprenticeship period as defined by the board that must include both field and office experience in responsible charge. The apprenticeship period must begin subsequent to completion of the education requirements provided in paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-12. Up to 50 percent credit for land surveying experience gained prior to passage of education requirements identified in paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-12 shall be granted if the experience is deemed appropriate by the board; and

(D) During or subsequent to the two-year apprenticeship period described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of this Code section, pass a board approved examination on the laws and history of land surveying in Georgia, the Georgia Professional Land Surveyor examination;

(2)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor intern under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), paragraph (2), and paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-15-12;

(B) Acquire an additional specific record of the equivalent of not less than four years of combined office and field experience in land surveying which, together with the qualifying experience under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-15-12, includes not less than four years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying projects under the supervision of a professional land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof; and Pass an examination on the principles and practices of land surveying as approved by the board;

(C) Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and the laws of Georgia relating to land surveying (professional land surveyor examination); Acquire a specific record of the equivalent of not less than five years of experience in land surveying, which includes completion of a two-year land surveying apprenticeship period as defined by the board that must include both field and office experience in responsible charge. An apprenticeship period must begin subsequent to completion of the education requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Code Section 43-15-12. Up to 50 percent credit for land surveying experience gained prior to passage of education requirements identified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Code Section 43-15-12 shall be granted if the experience is deemed appropriate by the board; and

(D) During or subsequent to the two-year apprenticeship period described in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, pass a board approved examination on the laws and history of land surveying in Georgia, the Georgia Professional Land Surveyor examination; or

(3)(A) Obtain certification as a land surveyor intern under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), paragraph (2), and paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-15-12;

(B) ~~Acquire an additional specific record of not less than four years of experience in land surveying which, together with the qualifying experience under subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 43-15-12, includes not less than six years' experience in responsible charge of land surveying projects under the supervision of a professional land surveyor or such other supervision deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof and of a grade and character satisfactory to the board indicating that the applicant is competent to practice land surveying; and~~ Pass an examination on the principles and practices of land surveying as approved by the board;

(C) ~~Subsequently pass a written examination on the principles and practices of land surveying and laws of this state relating to land surveying (professional land surveyor examination).~~ Acquire a specific record of the equivalent of not less than eight years of experience in land surveying which includes completion of a two-year land surveying apprenticeship period as defined by the board that must include both field and office experience in responsible charge. The apprenticeship period must begin subsequent to completion of education requirements in paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-12. Up to 50 percent credit for land surveying experience gained prior to passage of the education requirements identified in paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-12 shall be granted if the experience is deemed appropriate by the board;
and

119 (D) During or subsequent to the two-year apprenticeship period described in
120 subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of this Code section, pass a board approved
121 examination on the laws and history of land surveying in Georgia, the Georgia
122 Professional Land Surveyor examination."

123 **SECTION 4.**

124 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.