

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to HB 1096:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding professions and businesses, so as to establish on behalf of professional licensing boards under the jurisdiction of the office of the Secretary of State a continuing education tracking solution to monitor compliance of licensees with applicable continuing education requirements; to provide for definitions; to require compliance with continuing education requirements prior to the issuance of certain licenses; to provide for the adoption of rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 1 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding professions and businesses, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"43-1-4.1.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

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(1) 'License' means any document, permit, certificate of registration, or other authorization issued by or on behalf of a professional licensing board that is required for a person to engage in a profession, business, or trade.

(2) 'Licensee' means any person who is required to be licensed or who is actually licensed by a professional licensing board.

(b) The office of the Secretary of State on behalf of all professional licensing boards under its jurisdiction that require continuing education shall establish a continuing education tracking solution to monitor compliance of licensees with applicable continuing education requirements and to determine whether a licensee is in full compliance with such requirements at the time of making application for license renewal. Such tracking solution may be an off-premises hosted software-as-a-service application accessible through an internet website. The Secretary of State may contract with third parties to implement, integrate, or otherwise provide such tracking system.

(c) On and after January 1, 2025, a professional licensing board shall not renew a license until the applicant has complied with all applicable continuing education requirements as verified using the continuing education tracking solution required in subsection (b) of this Code section. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a professional licensing board from granting a hardship waiver or imposing additional penalties as otherwise provided by law or by the rules or regulations of the applicable board for failure to comply with continuing education requirements.

(d) The professional licensing boards and the division director may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to implement this Code section."

SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

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SECTION 3.

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