

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to professional geology; amending s.  
 3           492.104, F.S.; providing for apportionment of  
 4           examination fees; amending s. 492.105, F.S.; revising  
 5           examination requirements for professional geologists;  
 6           creating s. 492.1051, F.S.; providing requirements for  
 7           registration as a geologist-in-training; requiring  
 8           geologist-in-training applicants to successfully  
 9           complete the fundamentals of geology part of the  
 10          licensure examination; requiring an application fee  
 11          and a refundable examination fee; requiring the  
 12          Department of Business and Professional Regulation to  
 13          submit each completed application to the Board of  
 14          Professional Geologists for certification; setting  
 15          forth the criteria the board may use to certify  
 16          applicants; requiring the department to register each  
 17          person as a geologist-in-training whom the board  
 18          certifies has successfully completed the fundamentals  
 19          part of the geology examination; exempting registered  
 20          geologist-in-training seeking licensure as a  
 21          professional geologist from retaking the fundamentals  
 22          of geology part of the examination; providing an  
 23          effective date.

24  
 25    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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27 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 492.104, Florida  
 28 Statutes, is amended to read:

29 492.104 Rulemaking authority.—The Board of Professional  
 30 Geologists has authority to adopt rules pursuant to ss.  
 31 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. Every licensee  
 32 shall be governed and controlled by this chapter and the rules  
 33 adopted by the board. The board is authorized to set, by rule,  
 34 fees for application, examination, certificate of authorization,  
 35 late renewal, initial licensure, and license renewal. These fees  
 36 should not exceed the cost of implementing the application,  
 37 examination, initial licensure, and license renewal or other  
 38 administrative process and shall be established as follows:

39 (2) The examination fee shall not exceed \$250 and the fee  
 40 may be apportioned to each part of a multi-part examination. The  
 41 examination fee shall be refundable in whole or part if the  
 42 applicant is found to be ineligible to take any part of the  
 43 licensure examination.

44 Section 2. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of  
 45 section 492.105, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

46 492.105 Licensure by examination; requirements; fees.—

47 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a professional  
 48 geologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure  
 49 examination. The written licensure examination shall be designed  
 50 to test an applicant's qualifications to practice professional  
 51 geology, and shall include such subjects as will tend to  
 52 ascertain the applicant's knowledge of the fundamentals, theory,

53 and the practice of professional geology and may include such  
 54 subjects as are taught in curricula of accredited colleges and  
 55 universities. The written licensure examination may be a multi-  
 56 part examination. The department shall examine each applicant  
 57 who the board certifies:

58 (d) Has fulfilled ~~Fulfills~~ the following educational  
 59 requirements at a college or university, the geological  
 60 curricula of which meet the criteria established by an  
 61 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of  
 62 Education:

63 1. Graduation from such college or university with a major  
 64 in geology or other related science acceptable to the board; and

65 2. Satisfactory completion of at least 30 semester hours  
 66 or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework ~~courses, 24 of~~  
 67 ~~which must be at the third or fourth year or graduate level.~~

68 (e) Has at least 5 ~~7~~ years of verified professional  
 69 geological work experience, which includes ~~shall include~~ a  
 70 minimum of 3 years of professional geological work under the  
 71 supervision of a licensed or qualified geologist or professional  
 72 engineer registered under chapter 471 as qualified in the field  
 73 or discipline of professional engineering work performed  
 74 ~~involved~~; or has ~~have~~ a minimum of 5 accumulative years of  
 75 verified geological work ~~years~~ experience in responsible charge  
 76 of geological work as determined by the board. ~~The following~~  
 77 ~~criteria of education and experience qualify, as specified,~~  
 78 ~~toward accumulation of the required 7 years of professional~~

79 ~~geological work:~~

80 ~~1. Each year of undergraduate study in the geological~~  
 81 ~~sciences shall count as 1/2 year of the experience requirement,~~  
 82 ~~up to a maximum of 2 years, and each year of graduate study~~  
 83 ~~shall count as 1 year of the experience requirement.~~

84 ~~2. Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and~~  
 85 ~~graduate courses, individually or in any combination thereof,~~  
 86 ~~shall in no case exceed a total of 2 years toward meeting the~~  
 87 ~~requirements for at least 7 years of professional geological~~  
 88 ~~work.~~

89 ~~3. Full-time teaching or research in the geological~~  
 90 ~~sciences at the college level shall be credited year for year~~  
 91 ~~toward meeting the requirement in this category.~~

92 ~~4. The ability of the applicant shall have been~~  
 93 ~~demonstrated by his or her having performed the work in a~~  
 94 ~~responsible position as determined by the board.~~

95 Section 3. Section 492.1051, Florida Statutes, is created  
 96 to read:

97 492.1051 Registered geologist-in-training; requirements.-

98 (1) A person desiring to register as a geologist-in-  
 99 training shall apply to the department to take a discrete part  
 100 of the examination required for licensure as a professional  
 101 geologist in this state. This discrete part shall cover the  
 102 fundamentals of geology. The department shall examine each  
 103 applicant who the board certifies:

104 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a

105 nonrefundable application fee and an examination fee that is  
106 refundable if the applicant is found to be ineligible to take  
107 the examination.

108 (b) Has not committed an act or offense in any  
109 jurisdiction which constitutes grounds for disciplining a  
110 professional geologist licensed under this chapter; and

111 (c) Has successfully completed at least 30 semester hours  
112 or 45 quarter hours of geological coursework at a college or  
113 university, the geological curricula of which meet the criteria  
114 established by an accrediting agency recognized by the United  
115 States Department of Education and, if still enrolled, has  
116 provided a letter of good academic standing from the college or  
117 university.

118 (2) The department shall register as a geologist-in-  
119 training each applicant who the board certifies has passed the  
120 fundamentals of geology part of the licensure examination.

121 (3) A registered geologist-in-training desiring to be  
122 licensed as a professional geologist shall apply to the  
123 department to take the licensure examination as prescribed in s.  
124 492.105(1), but is not required to retake the fundamentals of  
125 geology part of the licensure examination.

126 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.