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BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE - BPC

DIVISION 3. PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS GENERALLY [5000 - 9998.11] (*Heading of Division 3 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 30.)*

CHAPTER 15. Land Surveyors [8700 - 8805] (*Chapter 15 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 41.)*

ARTICLE 4. Issuance of License [8740 - 8753] (*Article 4 added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 41.)*

8740. (a) An application for a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training or for a license as a land surveyor shall be made to the board on the form prescribed by it, with all statements therein made under oath, and shall be accompanied by the fee fixed by this chapter.

(b) The board may authorize an organization specified by the board pursuant to Section 8745 to receive directly from applicants payment of the examination fees charged by that organization as payment for examination materials and services.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 23. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8741. (a) An applicant for certification as a land surveyor-in-training shall comply with all of the following:

- (1) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.
- (2) Successfully pass the first division of the examination.
- (3) Satisfactorily complete two years or more of postsecondary education in land surveying, two years or more of experience in land surveying, or a combination of postsecondary education and experience in land surveying.

(b) The board need not verify the applicant's eligibility for certification as a land surveyor-in-training other than to require the applicant to sign a statement of eligibility on the application form.

(c) The board may prescribe by regulation reasonable educational or experience requirements for an applicant to meet the requirements in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a).

(d) An applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor shall comply with all of the following:

- (1) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.
- (2) Furnish evidence that he or she meets the requirements of Section 8742.
- (3) Successfully passed the second division of the examination.
- (4) Be certified as a land surveyor-in-training in this state, be certified as a land surveyor-in-training or surveyor intern in another state or territory of the United States, or be exempt therefrom. An applicant licensed by the board as a civil engineer is exempt from the requirement of this paragraph.
- (5) Be thoroughly familiar with (A) the procedure and rules governing the survey of public lands as set forth in Manual of Surveying Instructions (2009), published by the federal Bureau of Land Management, and (B) the principles of real property relating to boundaries and conveyancing.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 24. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8741.1. (a) The first division of the examination shall test the applicant's fundamental knowledge of surveying, mathematics, and basic science.

(b) The second division of the examination shall test the applicant's ability to apply his or her knowledge and experience and to assume responsible charge in the professional practice of land surveying.

The second division of the examination shall include an examination that incorporates a national examination for land surveying by a nationally recognized entity approved by the board and a supplemental California specific examination. The California specific examination shall include, as a separate part, an examination to test the applicant's knowledge of the provisions of this chapter and the board's rules and regulations regulating the practice of professional land surveying in this state.

(c) The board may by rule provide a waiver of the first division of the examination for applicants whose education and experience qualifications substantially exceed the requirements of Section 8742.

(d) The board may by rule provide for a waiver of the second division of the examination and the assignment to a special examination for those applicants whose educational qualifications are equal to, and whose experience qualifications substantially exceed, those qualifications established under subdivision (c). The special examination may be either written or oral, or a combination of both.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 25. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8742. (a) The educational qualifications and experience in land surveying, which an applicant for a license as a land surveyor shall possess, shall not be less than one of the following prescribed criteria:

(1) Graduation from a four-year curriculum with an emphasis in land surveying approved by the board or accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Office of Education at a postsecondary educational institution and two years of actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying, including one year of responsible field training and one year of responsible office training, satisfactory to the board.

(2) Actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying for at least six years, including one year of responsible field training and one year of responsible office training, satisfactory to the board.

(3) Licensure as a civil engineer with two years of actual broad based progressive experience in land surveying satisfactory to the board.

(b) With respect to an applicant for a license as a land surveyor, the board shall count one year of postsecondary education in land surveying as one year of experience in land surveying up to a maximum of four years, provided the applicant has graduated from the course in land surveying and the curriculum in land surveying is approved by the board or is accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized for the purpose by the United States Office of Education. Each year of study in an approved or an accredited course in land surveying without graduation shall be counted the same as one-half year of experience.

Each applicant claiming equivalent credit for education may be required to produce a complete transcript of all college level courses completed.

Until January 1, 2000, the board may, at its discretion, confer credit as experience in land surveying, not in excess of two years, for successfully passing the first division of the examination prescribed in Section 8741.1.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 26. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8743. The names and addresses of at least four land surveyors or civil engineers, duly qualified to practice in the place in which such practice has been conducted, each of whom has sufficient knowledge of the applicant to enable him or her to certify to the applicant's professional integrity, ability and fitness to receive a license, shall be submitted with the application for a license as a land surveyor.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 27. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8744. The applicant for a license as a land surveyor shall state in his or her application that, should he or she be licensed, he or she will support the Constitution of this State and of the United States, and that he or she will faithfully discharge the duties of a licensed land surveyor.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 28. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8745. Examinations for license shall be held at such times and at such places within the state as determined by board rule.

The scope of examinations and the method of procedure shall be prescribed by board rule.

The board may make arrangements with a public or private organization to conduct the examination. The board may contract with a public or private organization for materials or services related to the examination.

(Amended by Stats. 2006, Ch. 658, Sec. 115. Effective January 1, 2007.)

8746. An applicant failing an examination may be examined again upon filing a new application and the payment of the examination fee fixed by the board.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 188, Sec. 13. (SB 826) Effective January 1, 2022.)

8747. Any applicant who has met the requirements for certification or licensure prescribed by the board under this chapter shall have a suitable license issued to him or her.

(a) An applicant who has met the requirements of subdivision (a) and (b) of Section 8741 shall be issued a certificate as a land surveyor-in-training. A renewal or other fee, other than the application fee, shall not be charged for this certification. This certificate shall become invalid upon the person being issued a license as a land surveyor, as provided in subdivision (b). A land surveyor-in-training certificate shall not authorize the holder thereof to practice or offer to practice land surveying. A person shall not use the title of land surveyor-in-training, or any abbreviation of this title, unless he or she is the holder of a valid land surveyor-in-training certificate.

(b) An applicant who has met the requirements of subdivision (d) of Section 8741 shall be issued a license as a land surveyor. The license shall authorize him or her to practice as a land surveyor.

(Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 236, Sec. 29. (SB 1165) Effective January 1, 2017.)

8747.5. (a) The board shall issue, upon application and payment of the fee established by Section 8805, a retired license to a land surveyor who has been licensed by the board for a minimum of five years within California, and a minimum of 20 years within the United States or territories of the United States, and who holds a license that is not suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined, or subject to pending discipline under this chapter.

(b) The holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity for which an active land surveyor's license is required. A land surveyor holding a retired license shall be permitted to use the titles "retired professional land surveyor" or "professional land surveyor, retired."

(c) The holder of a retired license shall not be required to renew that license.

(d) In order for the holder of a retired license issued pursuant to this section to restore his or her license to active status, he or she shall pass the examination that is required for initial licensure with the board.

(Added by Stats. 1999, Ch. 983, Sec. 10.16. Effective January 1, 2000.)

8748. The board, upon application therefor, and the payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, may issue a land surveyor's license, without written examination, to any person who holds a valid land surveyor's license issued to him or her by any state or country when the applicant's qualifications meet the requirements of this chapter and rules established by the board.

(Amended by Stats. 2010, Ch. 415, Sec. 31. (SB 1491) Effective January 1, 2011.)

8748.5. If an applicant for license as a land surveyor or certification as a land surveyor-in-training is found by the board to lack the qualifications required for such license or certification, the board may, in accordance with the provisions of Section 158 of this code, refund to them their examination fee.

(Amended by Stats. 2024, Ch. 588, Sec. 18. (AB 3253) Effective January 1, 2025.)

8749. A duplicate certificate of license to replace one lost, destroyed or mutilated may be issued subject to the rules and regulations of the board. The duplicate certificate fee fixed by this chapter shall be charged.

(Added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 41.)

8750. Upon being licensed, each licensee shall obtain a stamp or seal of the design authorized by the board bearing the licensee's name, number of certificate, and the legend "Licensed Land Surveyor," or "Professional Land Surveyor."

(Amended by Stats. 2009, Ch. 368, Sec. 5. (AB 645) Effective January 1, 2010.)

8751. No person shall represent himself or herself as, or use the title of, or any abbreviation or combination of the words in the title of, professional land surveyor, licensed land surveyor, land surveyor, land survey engineer, survey engineer, geodetic engineer, geomatics engineer, or geometronic engineer unless he or she is the holder of a valid, unsuspended, and unrevoked license.

(Amended by Stats. 2002, Ch. 1013, Sec. 66. Effective January 1, 2003.)

8752. An unrevoked, unsuspended and unexpired license, or renewal certificate, issued by the board is presumptive evidence in all courts and places that the person named is legally licensed under this chapter.

(Added by Stats. 1939, Ch. 41.)

8753. (a) Each applicant for licensure or certification who has a valid email address shall report to the board that email address at the time of application.

(b) Each certificate or license holder who has a valid email address shall report that email address to the board at the time of renewal.

(c) Each applicant or certificate or license holder shall notify the board within 30 days of any change to their email address on file with the board.

(d) In the interest of protecting the privacy of applicants and certificate or license holders, the email address provided to the board pursuant to this chapter shall not be considered a public record and shall not be disclosed pursuant to Section 27 or pursuant to a request under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code), unless required pursuant to a court order by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(Added by Stats. 2022, Ch. 302, Sec. 9. (SB 1120) Effective January 1, 2023.)