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SB-1098 Geologists and geophysicists: fees. (2017-2018)

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Date Published: 07/20/2018 09:00 PM

Senate Bill No. 1098

CHAPTER 154

An act to amend Sections 7840, 7847, 7850, 7850.1, 7850.5, 7850.6, and 7887 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to professions and vocations, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor July 20, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State July 20, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1098, Cannella. Geologists and geophysicists: fees.

Existing law, the Geologist and Geophysicist Act, provides for the registration and regulation of geologists and geophysicists by the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. Existing law requires the board to fix various license, renewal, and document fees in accordance with a specified schedule. Existing law requires fees and civil penalties received pursuant to the act to be deposited in the Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's Fund and continuously appropriates those funds to the board for purposes of the act.

This bill would require the board to fix the fee for filing an application for certification as a geologist-in-training at no more than \$100. The bill would delete a provision setting the license fee for a geologist or geophysicist and for certification in a specialty required to be paid in addition to the application fee. The bill would delete a provision limiting the examination fee for licensure as a geophysicist or certification as an engineering geologist or hydrogeologist to \$100, and would instead require the fee to be fixed at an amount equal to the board's costs to administer the examination. The bill would increase the maximum renewal fee for a specialty geologist or specialty geophysicist to \$400. The bill would delete a provision fixing the amount of a duplicate certificate fee and would require the board to set all other document fees by regulation in an amount not to exceed a reasonable regulatory cost. The bill would make other nonsubstantive, conforming changes.

Because the bill would authorize additional fee money to be deposited into the Professional Engineer's, Land Surveyor's, and Geologist's Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 7840 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7840. An application for licensure as a geologist, certification in a specialty in geology, certification as a geologist-in-training, licensure as a geophysicist, or certification in a specialty in geophysics shall be made to the board on a form prescribed by it and shall be accompanied by the application fee fixed by this chapter.

SEC. 2. Section 7847 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7847. The board, upon application therefor, on its prescribed form, and upon the payment of the fee fixed by this chapter, which shall be retained by the board, may issue a certificate of registration as a geologist or as a geophysicist to a person holding an equivalent certificate of registration as a geologist or as a geophysicist, issued to him or her by any state or country when the applicant's qualifications meet the other requirements of this chapter and the rules established by the board.

SEC. 3. Section 7850 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7850. Any applicant for licensure as a professional geologist who meets all the requirements prescribed in Section 7841 and who has otherwise qualified hereunder as a geologist shall have a certificate of registration issued to him or her as a professional geologist.

SEC. 4. Section 7850.1 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7850.1. Any applicant for licensure as a professional geophysicist who meets all the requirements prescribed in Section 7841.1 and who has otherwise qualified hereunder as a geophysicist shall have a certificate of registration issued to him or her as a professional geophysicist.

SEC. 5. Section 7850.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7850.5. An applicant for certification as a certified specialty geologist who meets all the requirements prescribed in Section 7842 and who has otherwise qualified under this chapter in the specialty shall have a certificate issued to him or her as a certified specialty geologist.

A certificate of certified specialty geologist shall be signed by the president and executive officer and issued under the seal of the board.

SEC. 6. Section 7850.6 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7850.6. An applicant who has passed the examination for a certified specialty geophysicist and has otherwise qualified under this chapter in the specialty shall have a certificate issued to him or her as a certified specialty geophysicist. A certificate of certified specialty geophysicist shall be signed by the president and executive officer and issued under the seal of the board.

SEC. 7. Section 7887 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7887. The amount of the fees prescribed by this chapter shall be fixed by the board in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) The fee for filing an application for licensure as a geologist or a geophysicist or certification as a specialty geologist or a specialty geophysicist shall be fixed at not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). The fee for filing an application for certification as a geologist-in-training shall be fixed at not more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

(b) The renewal fee for a geologist or for a geophysicist shall be fixed at not more than four hundred dollars (\$400).

(c) The renewal fee for a specialty geologist or for a specialty geophysicist shall be fixed at not more than four hundred dollars (\$400).

(d) Notwithstanding Section 163.5, the delinquency fee for a certificate is an amount equal to 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date.

(e) Each applicant for licensure as a geologist shall pay an examination fee fixed at an amount equal to the actual cost to the board to administer the examination described in subdivision (d) of Section 7841, unless an applicant pays the examination fee directly to an organization pursuant to Section 7844.

(f) Each applicant for licensure as a geophysicist or certification as an engineering geologist or certification as a hydrogeologist shall pay an examination fee fixed by the board at an amount equal to the actual cost to the board for the development and maintenance of the written examination.

(g) The fee for a retired license shall be fixed at not more than 50 percent of the fee for filing an application for licensure as a geologist or a geophysicist in effect on the date of application for a retired license.

(h) All other document fees shall be established by the board by regulation and shall be set in an amount not to exceed a reasonable regulatory cost.