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AB-2105 Contractors: initial license fee reduction: veterans. (2021-2022)

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Assembly Bill No. 2105

CHAPTER 156

An act to amend Section 7137 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to contractors.

[Approved by Governor August 22, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State August 22, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2105, Smith. Contractors: initial license fee reduction: veterans.

Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs is composed of various boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations. Existing law requires a board within the department to expedite, and authorizes a board to assist in, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged.

Existing law, the Contractors State License Law, provides for the licensing and regulation of contractors by the Contractors State License Board, which is within the department. Existing law authorizes the board to set fees by regulation, according to a prescribed schedule.

This bill would require the board to grant a 50% fee reduction for an initial license or registration fee to an applicant who provides specified documentation to the board that the applicant is a veteran who has served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserve components, and was not dishonorably discharged.

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 7137 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

7137. (a) The board may set fees by regulation. These fees shall be set according to the following schedule:

(1) Application fees shall be set as follows:

(A) The application fee for an original license in a single classification shall be four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) and may be increased to not more than five hundred sixty-three dollars (\$563).

(B) The application fee for each additional classification applied for in connection with an original license shall be one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) and may be increased to not more than one hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$188).

(C) The application fee for each additional classification pursuant to Section 7059 shall be two hundred thirty dollars (\$230) and may be increased to not more than two hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$288).

(D) The application fee to replace a responsible managing officer, responsible managing manager, responsible managing member, or responsible managing employee pursuant to Section 7068.2 shall be two hundred thirty dollars (\$230) and may be increased to not more than two hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$288).

(E) The application fee to add personnel, other than a qualifying individual, to an existing license shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) and may be increased to not more than one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$157).

(F) The application fee for an asbestos certification examination shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) and may be increased to not more than one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$157).

(G) The application fee for a hazardous substance removal or remedial action certification examination shall be one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) and may be increased to not more than one hundred fifty-seven dollars (\$157).

(2) Examination scheduling fees shall be set as follows:

(A) The fee for rescheduling an examination for an applicant who has applied for an original license, additional classification, a change of responsible managing officer, responsible managing manager, responsible managing member, or responsible managing employee, or for an asbestos certification or hazardous substance removal certification, shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) and may be increased to not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

(B) The fee for scheduling or rescheduling an examination for a licensee who is required to take the examination as a condition of probation shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) and may be increased to not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

(3) Initial license and registration fees shall be set as follows:

(A) The initial license fee for an active or inactive license for an individual owner shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) and may be increased to not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(B) The initial license fee for an active or inactive license for a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture shall be three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) and may be increased to not more than four hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$438).

(C) The registration fee for a home improvement salesperson shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) and may be increased to not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(D) (i) The board shall grant a 50-percent reduction in the fees prescribed by this paragraph to an applicant who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserve components, and was not dishonorably discharged.

(ii) To demonstrate discharge grade at the time of the board's request for the initial license or registration fee, the applicant shall provide the board a copy of a current and valid driver's license or identification card issued by this state or another state with the word "Veteran" printed on its face or a copy of their DD214 long form.

(4) License and registration renewal fees shall be set as follows:

(A) The renewal fee for an active license for an individual owner shall be four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) and may be increased to not more than five hundred sixty-three dollars (\$563).

(B) The renewal fee for an inactive license for an individual owner shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) and may be increased to not more than three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375).

(C) The renewal fee for an active license for a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture shall be seven hundred dollars (\$700) and may be increased to not more than eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$875).

(D) The renewal fee for an inactive license for a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or joint venture shall be five hundred dollars (\$500) and may be increased to not more than six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$625).

(E) The renewal fee for a home improvement salesperson registration shall be two hundred dollars (\$200) and may be increased to not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(5) The delinquency fee is an amount equal to 50 percent of the renewal fee, if the license is renewed after its expiration.

(6) Miscellaneous fees shall be set as follows:

(A) In addition to any other fees charged to C-10 contractors, the board shall charge a fee of twenty dollars (\$20), to be assessed with the renewal fee for an active license, which shall be used by the board to enforce provisions of the Labor Code related to electrician certification.

(B) The service fee to deposit with the registrar lawful money or cashier's check pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 995.710 of the Code of Civil Procedure for purposes of compliance with any provision of Article 5 (commencing with Section 7065) shall be one hundred dollars (\$100), which shall be used by the board only to process each deposit filed with the registrar, to cover the reasonable costs to the registrar for holding money or cashier's checks in trust in interest bearing deposit or share accounts, and to offset the costs of processing payment of lawful claims against a deposit in a civil action.

(C) The fee for the processing and issuance of a duplicate copy of any certificate of licensure or other form evidencing licensure or renewal of licensure pursuant to Section 122 shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25).

(D) The fee to change the business name of a license as it is recorded under this chapter shall be one hundred dollars (\$100) and may be increased to not more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125).

(E) The service charge for a dishonored check authorized by Section 6157 of the Government Code shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) for each check.

(b) The board shall, by regulation, establish criteria for the approval of expedited processing of applications. Approved expedited processing of applications for licensure or registration, as required by other provisions of law, shall not be subject to this subdivision.