

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 658
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/05

Short Title: Code Officials Professionalism.-AB

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
CODE-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 9C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
by adding a new section to read:

"§ 143-151.13A. Professional development program for officials.

(a) As used in this section, "official" means a qualified Code-enforcement
official as that term is defined in G.S. 143-151.8.

(b) The Board may establish professional development requirements for officials
as a condition of the renewal or reactivation of their certificates. The purposes of these
professional development requirements are to assist officials in maintaining professional
competence in their enforcement of the Code and to assure the health, safety, and
welfare of the citizens of North Carolina. An official subject to this section shall present
evidence to the Board at each certificate renewal after initial certification, that during
the 12 months before the certificate expiration date, the official has completed the
required number of credit hours in courses approved by the Board. Annual continuing
education hour requirements shall be determined by the Board but shall not be more
than six credit hours.

(c) The Board may require an individual who earns a certificate under programs
established in G.S. 143-151.13 to complete professional development courses, not to
exceed six hours in each technical area of certification, within one year after that
individual is first employed by a city or county inspection department.

(d) As a condition of reactivating a standard or limited certificate, the Board may
require the completion of professional development courses within one year after
reemployment as an official as follows:

(1) An individual who has been on inactive status for more than two years
and who has not been continuously employed by a city or county
inspection department during the period of inactive status shall

1 complete professional development courses not to exceed 12 hours for
2 each technical area in which the individual is certified.

3 (2) An individual who has been on inactive status for more than two years
4 and who has been continuously employed by a city or county
5 inspection department during the period of inactive status shall
6 complete professional development courses not to exceed six hours for
7 each technical area in which the individual is certified.

8 (3) An individual who has been on inactive status for two years or less
9 shall complete professional development courses not to exceed four
10 hours for each technical area in which the individual is certified.

11 (e) The Board may, for good cause shown, grant extensions of time to officials to
12 comply with these requirements. An official who, after obtaining an extension under
13 this subsection, offers evidence satisfactory to the Board that the official has
14 satisfactorily completed the required professional development courses, is in
15 compliance with this section.

16 (f) The Board may adopt rules to implement this section, including rules that
17 govern:

18 (1) The content and subject matter of professional development courses.

19 (2) The criteria, standards, and procedures for the approval of courses,
20 course sponsors, and course instructors.

21 (3) The methods of instruction.

22 (4) The computation of course credit.

23 (5) The ability to carry-forward course credit from one year to another.

24 (6) The waiver of or variance from the professional development required
25 for hardship or other reasons.

26 (7) The procedures for compliance and sanctions for noncompliance."

27 **SECTION 2.** The Code Officials Qualification Board shall initiate
28 development of the Code officials' professional development program established
29 pursuant to this act no later than October 1, 2005. The program shall be developed for
30 implementation no later than January 1, 2006.

31 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to
32 certificates issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2006.