

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

S

1

SENATE BILL 675

Short Title: Code Officials Professional Qualifications.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hoyle.

Referred to: Commerce.

April 2, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR  
CODE-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF FUNDS  
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF CODE-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, AND TO  
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FROM THE INSURANCE REGULATORY FUND FOR  
THAT PURPOSE.

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 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 standard certificate under  
the prequalification program established in G.S. 143-151.13(d) 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.

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

4           (1) An individual who has been on inactive status for more than two years  
5 and who has not been continuously employed by a city or county  
6 inspection department during the period of inactive status shall  
7 complete professional development courses not to exceed 12 hours for  
8 each technical area in which the individual is certified.

9           (2) An individual who has been on inactive status for more than two years  
10 but who has been continuously employed by a city or county  
11 inspection department during the period of inactive status shall  
12 complete professional development courses not to exceed six hours for  
13 each technical area in which the individual is certified.

14           (3) An individual who has been on inactive status for two years or less and  
15 who has been continuously employed by a city or county inspection  
16 department during the period of inactive status shall complete  
17 professional development courses not to exceed four hours for each  
18 technical area in which the individual is certified.

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

24       (f) The Board may adopt rules to give purpose and effect to the professional  
25 development requirements, including rules that govern:

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

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

29           (3) The methods of instruction.

30           (4) The computation of course credit.

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

32           (6) The waiver of or variance from the professional development  
33 requirement for hardship or other reasons.

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

35       **SECTION 2.** G.S. 58-6-25(d) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
36 read:

37           "(9) Money appropriated to the Department of Insurance for the  
38 Code-enforcement officials professional development requirements  
39 under G.S. 143-151.13A."

40       **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the Insurance Regulatory Fund,  
41 established in G.S. 58-6-25, to the Department of Insurance the sum of seven hundred  
42 fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year for the Code Officials  
43 Qualification Board for the purpose of developing and implementing the Code officials  
44 professional development program established in G.S. 143-151.13A.

1           **SECTION 4.** Section 1 of this act applies to certificates issued or renewed  
2 on and after October 1, 2003. Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2003. The  
3 appropriation in Section 3 of this act is contingent upon the implementation of the  
4 program by the Code Officials Qualification Board and may be used only for the  
5 purpose of developing and implementing the program. The remainder of this act is  
6 effective when it becomes law.