

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

**HOUSE BILL 658
RATIFIED BILL**

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

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

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

- (1) The content and subject matter of professional development courses.
- (2) The criteria, standards, and procedures for the approval of courses, course sponsors, and course instructors.
- (3) The methods of instruction.
- (4) The computation of course credit.
- (5) The ability to carry-forward course credit from one year to another.
- (6) The waiver of or variance from the professional development required for hardship or other reasons.
- (7) The procedures for compliance and sanctions for noncompliance."

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

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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 13th day of June, 2005.

Charlie S. Dannelly
Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate

James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2005