

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

**SESSION LAW 2009-125
HOUSE BILL 221**

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE ACTIVITIES OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS, TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN LICENSING BOARDS BE AUDITED ANNUALLY, TO SPECIFY A DATE FOR FILING OF REPORTS, TO ESTABLISH SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO FILE REPORTS, AND TO REQUIRE THAT BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE TRAINING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 120-70.101 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-70.101. Purpose and powers of Committee.

The Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To review rules to which the Rules Review Commission has objected to determine if statutory changes are needed to enable the agency to fulfill the intent of the General Assembly.
- (2) To receive reports prepared by the Rules Review Commission containing the text and a summary of each rule approved by the Commission.
- ~~(3) To prepare a notebook that contains the administrative rules that have been approved by the Rules Review Commission and reported to the Committee and to notify each member of the General Assembly of the availability of the notebook.~~
- (3a) To review the activities of State occupational licensing boards to determine if the boards are operating in accordance with statutory requirements and if the boards are still necessary to achieve the purposes for which they were created. This review shall not include decisions concerning board personnel matters or determinations on individual licensing applications or individual disciplinary actions.
- (4) To review State regulatory programs to determine if the programs overlap, have conflicting goals, or could be simplified and still achieve the purpose of the regulation.
- (5) To review existing rules to determine if the rules are necessary or if the rules can be streamlined.
- (6) To review the rule-making process to determine if the procedures for adopting rules give the public adequate notice of and information about proposed rules.
- (7) To review any other concerns about administrative law to determine if statutory changes are needed.
- (8) To report to the General Assembly from time to time concerning the Committee's activities and any recommendations for statutory changes."

SECTION 2. G.S. 93B-2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 93B-2. Annual reports required; contents; open to ~~inspection.~~ inspection; sanction for failure to report.

(a) ~~Each~~ No later than October 31 of each year, each occupational licensing board shall file with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee an annual report containing all of the following information:

- (1) The address of the board, and the names of its members and officers.
- (2) The number of persons who applied to the board for examination.



- (3) The number who were refused examination.
- (4) The number who took the examination.
- (5) The number to whom initial licenses were issued.
- (6) The number who applied for license by reciprocity or comity.
- (7) The number who were granted licenses by reciprocity or comity.
- (7a) The number of official complaints received involving licensed and unlicensed activities.
- (7b) The number of disciplinary actions taken against licensees, or other actions taken against nonlicensees, including injunctive relief.
- (8) The number of licenses suspended or revoked.
- (9) The number of licenses terminated for any reason other than failure to pay the required renewal fee.
- (10) The substance of any anticipated request by the occupational licensing board to the General Assembly to amend statutes related to the occupational licensing board.
- (11) The substance of any anticipated change in rules adopted by the occupational licensing board or the substance of any anticipated adoption of new rules by the occupational licensing board.

(b) ~~Each~~ No later than October 31 of each year, each occupational licensing board shall file with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee a financial report that includes the source and amount of all funds credited to the occupational licensing board and the purpose and amount of all funds disbursed by the occupational licensing board during the previous 12-month period, fiscal year.

(c) The reports required by this section shall be open to public inspection.

(d) Failure of a board to comply with the reporting requirements of this section by October 31 of each year shall result in a suspension of the board's authority to expend any funds until such time as the board files the required reports. Suspension of a board's authority to expend funds under this subsection shall not affect the board's duty to issue and renew licenses or the validity of any application or license for which fees have been tendered in accordance with law. Each board shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for implementing this subsection and shall maintain an escrow account into which any fees tendered during a board's period of suspension under this subsection shall be deposited."

SECTION 3. G.S. 93B-4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 93B-4. Audit of Occupational Licensing Boards; payment of costs.

(a) The State Auditor shall audit occupational licensing boards from time to time to ensure their proper operation. The books, records, and operations of each occupational licensing board shall be subject to the oversight of the State Auditor pursuant to Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes. In accordance with G.S. 147-64.7(b), the State Auditor may contract with independent professionals to meet the requirements of this section.

The cost of all audits shall be paid from funds of the occupational licensing board audited.

(b) Each occupational licensing board with a budget of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) shall conduct an annual financial audit of its operations and provide a copy to the State Auditor."

SECTION 4. G.S. 93B-5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 93B-5. ~~Compensation and employment~~ Compensation, employment, and training of board members.

(a) Board members shall receive as compensation for their services per diem not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each day during which they are engaged in the official business of the board.

(b) Board members shall be reimbursed for all necessary travel expenses in an amount not to exceed that authorized under G.S. 138-6(a) for officers and employees of State departments. Actual expenditures of board members in excess of the maximum amounts set forth in G.S. 138-6(a) for travel and subsistence may be reimbursed if the prior approval of the State Director of Budget is obtained and such approved expenditures are within the established and published uniform standards and criteria of the State Director of Budget authorized under G.S. 138-7 for extraordinary charges for hotels, meals, and convention registration for State officers and employees, whenever such charges are the result of required official business of the Board.

- (c) Repealed by Session Laws 1981, c. 757, s. 2.
- (d) Except as provided herein board members shall not be paid a salary or receive any additional compensation for services rendered as members of the board.
- (e) Board members shall not be permanent, salaried employees of said board.
- (f) Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 765, s. 1.
- (g) Within six months of a board member's initial appointment to the board, and at least once within every two calendar years thereafter, a board member shall receive training, either from the board's staff, including its legal advisor, or from an outside educational institution such as the School of Government of the University of North Carolina, on the statutes governing the board and rules adopted by the board, as well as the following State laws, in order to better understand the obligations and limitations of a State agency:
 - (1) Chapter 150B, The Administrative Procedure Act.
 - (2) Chapter 132, The Public Records Law.
 - (3) Article 33C of Chapter 143, The Open Meetings Act.
 - (4) Articles 31 and 31A of Chapter 143, The State Tort Claims Act and The Defense of State Employees Law.
 - (5) Chapter 138A, The State Government Ethics Act.
 - (6) Chapter 120C, Lobbying.

Completion of the training requirements contained in Chapter 138A and Chapter 120C of the General Statutes satisfies the requirements of subdivisions (5) and (6) of this subsection."

SECTION 5. G.S. 120-70.103 is repealed.

SECTION 6. This act becomes effective October 1, 2009.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 11th day of June, 2009.

s/ Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
Governor

Approved 11:33 a.m. this 19th day of June, 2009