

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE DRS35136-LUF-35 (02/08)

Short Title: Rewrite Landscape Contractor Laws.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Apodaca and Brown (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REWRITING THE LAWS REGULATING LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS AND
3 AUTHORIZING THE NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS'
4 LICENSING BOARD TO INCREASE CERTAIN FEES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 89D-1 through G.S. 89D-10 are repealed.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 89D of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
8 following new sections to read:

9 "**§ 89D-11. Definitions.**

10 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

- 11 (1) Board. – The North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board.
12 (2) Landscape construction or contracting. – The act of providing services as a
13 landscape contractor, as defined in this section, for compensation or other
14 consideration.
15 (3) Landscape contractor. – Any person who, for compensation or other
16 consideration, does any of the following:
17 a. Engages in the business requiring the art, experience, ability,
18 knowledge, science, and skill to prepare contracts and bid for the
19 performance of landscape services, including installing, planting,
20 repairing, and managing gardens, lawns, shrubs, vines, trees, or other
21 decorative vegetation, including the finish grading and preparation of
22 plots and areas of land for decorative utilitarian treatment and
23 arrangement.
24 b. Practices the act of horticulture consultation or planting design for
25 employment purposes.
26 c. Constructs, installs, or maintains landscape drainage systems and
27 cisterns.
28 d. Designs, installs, or maintains low voltage landscape lighting
29 systems.
30 e. Engages in the construction of garden pools, fountains, pavilions,
31 arbors, retaining walls, fences, walks, patios, driveways, or other
32 decorative landscape features, excluding poured concrete or asphalt
33 driveways.
34 (4) Person. – An individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other
35 legal entity.



* D R S 3 5 1 3 6 - L U F - 3 5 *

"§ 89D-12. License required; use of seal; posting license.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, no person shall engage in the practice of landscape construction or contracting, use the designation 'landscape contractor,' or advertise using any title or description that implies licensure as a landscape contractor unless the person is licensed as a landscape contractor as provided by this Chapter. All landscape construction or contracting performed by a partnership, association, corporation, firm, or other group shall be under the direct supervision of an individual licensed by the Board under this Chapter.

(b) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to authorize a landscape contractor to engage in any of the following:

(1) The practice of landscape architecture as defined in G.S. 89A-1.

(2) The practice of engineering as defined in G.S. 89C-3.

(3) Practice as a well contractor certified under Article 7A of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes.

(4) The practice of irrigation contracting as defined in G.S. 89G-1.

(5) The practice of architecture as defined in G.S. 83A-1.

(c) Upon licensure by the Board, each landscape contractor shall obtain a seal of the design authorized by the Board and bearing the name of the licensee, the number of the license, and the legend 'N.C. Licensed Landscape Contractor.' A landscape contractor may use the seal only while the license is valid.

(d) Every landscape contractor issued a license under this Chapter shall display the license conspicuously in the landscape contractor's place of business. Every landscape contractor shall display the license number issued to the contractor by the Board on all business cards, contracts, and vehicles used by the contractor in the landscape contracting business.

"§ 89D-13. Exemptions.

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the following:

(1) Any federal, State, or local governmental agency performing landscaping on public property.

(2) The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). However, for landscape installations or establishment periods for any project that exceeds the current contract amount requiring performance and payment bonds according to State law, NCDOT shall require a licensed landscape contractor to perform the work. NCDOT, at its discretion, may require a licensed landscape contractor for landscape projects of any cost.

(3) Any property owner performing landscape work on his or her own property.

(4) Any person or business owning or operating a golf course.

(5) Any landscaping work where the price of all contracts for labor, material, and other items for a given job site during any consecutive 12-month period is less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

(6) Any person or business licensed pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who possesses a classification under G.S. 87-10(b) as a building contractor, a residential contractor, or a public utilities contractor when the contractor uses the contractor's own employees to perform landscape construction or contracting. A public utilities contractor exempted by this subdivision may only perform the activities described in G.S. 87-10(b)(3)a.

(7) Any person or business licensed as an electrician under Article 4 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes and installing low voltage lighting.

(8) A plumbing contractor licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who performs only the following work: installation, repairs, or maintenance of water mains, water taps, services lines, water meters, or

1 backflow prevention assemblies supplying water for irrigation systems or
2 repairs to an irrigation system.

3 (9) A professional engineer licensed pursuant to Chapter 89C of the General
4 Statutes.

5 (10) A professional landscape architect licensed under Chapter 89A of the
6 General Statutes.

7 (11) An individual or a business engaged in any of the following activities in
8 performing that activity:

9 a. Clearing and grading plots and areas of land.

10 b. Erosion control.

11 c. Arboriculture, including consultations on pruning and removal of
12 trees.

13 d. North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
14 certified sod producers that install sod, seed, or plugs.

15 e. Landscape construction performed by utilities contractors for the
16 purpose of grading and erosion control.

17 f. Lawn mowing, turf edging, and debris removal services.

18 g. Turf management or lawn care services only, including fertilization,
19 aeration, weed control, or other turf management or lawn care
20 practices other than mowing or edging.

21 h. Design, installation, and maintenance of on-site wastewater disposal
22 or reuse systems within the on-site wastewater permit specifications.

23 **"§ 89D-14. The North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board.**

24 (a) There is created the North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board. The
25 Board shall consist of nine members appointed as follows:

26 (1) One member appointed by the Governor who is a member of the general
27 public.

28 (2) One member appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to
29 recommendations from The North Carolina Green Industry Council.

30 (3) One member appointed by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina
31 Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc., who is a practicing nurseryman
32 operating a nursery certified by the North Carolina Department of
33 Agriculture and Consumer Services Plant Pest Inspection Program.

34 (4) Four members who are licensed landscape contractors in the business of
35 landscape construction or contracting. One of the four members shall be
36 appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the
37 Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to recommendations from
38 The North Carolina Green Industry Council; one shall be appointed by the
39 General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore
40 of the Senate pursuant to recommendations from the Carolinas Irrigation
41 Association, who is also a licensed irrigation contractor; and two shall be
42 appointed by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Nursery and
43 Landscape Association, Inc.

44 (5) One member appointed by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina
45 Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects who is a
46 registered landscape architect.

47 (6) One member appointed by the President of The University of North Carolina
48 from within the land grant university community who is knowledgeable in
49 landscaping methods and practices.

50 (b) All appointments shall be for three-year terms. No member shall serve more than
51 two complete consecutive terms.

1 (c) A vacancy on the Board created by death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled in
2 the same manner as the original appointment, except that all unexpired terms of Board
3 members appointed by the General Assembly shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122.
4 Appointees to fill vacancies shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and until their
5 successors are appointed and qualified.

6 (d) The Board shall elect annually a chair and other officers as it deems necessary to
7 carry out the purposes of this Chapter and shall hold meetings at least twice a year. A majority
8 of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

9 (e) Each member of the Board may receive per diem and reimbursement for travel and
10 subsistence as set forth in G.S. 93B-5.

11 (f) The Board shall be entitled to the services of the Attorney General in connection
12 with the affairs of the Board or may, in its discretion, employ an attorney to assist or represent
13 it in the enforcement of this Chapter.

14 **"§ 89D-15. Powers and duties.**

15 The Board shall have the following powers and duties to:

- 16 (1) Administer and enforce the provisions of this Chapter.
- 17 (2) Adopt, amend, or repeal rules to carry out the provisions of this Chapter.
- 18 (3) Examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for
19 licensure and licensure renewal.
- 20 (4) Issue, renew, deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke licenses.
- 21 (5) Reprimand or otherwise discipline licensees under this Chapter.
- 22 (6) Receive and investigate complaints from members of the public.
- 23 (7) Conduct investigations to determine whether violations of this Chapter exist
24 or constitute grounds for disciplinary action against licensees under this
25 Chapter.
- 26 (8) Conduct administrative hearings in accordance with Article 3A of Chapter
27 150B of the General Statutes.
- 28 (9) Seek injunctive relief through any court of competent jurisdiction for
29 violations of this Chapter.
- 30 (10) Collect fees required by G.S. 89D-21 and any other monies permitted by law
31 to be paid to the Board.
- 32 (11) Require licensees to file and maintain an adequate surety bond.
- 33 (12) Establish and approve continuing education requirements for persons
34 licensed under this Chapter.
- 35 (13) Employ a secretary-treasurer and any other clerical personnel the Board
36 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter and to fix
37 compensation for employees.
- 38 (14) Maintain a record of all proceedings conducted by the Board and make
39 available to licensees and other concerned parties an annual report of all
40 Board action.
- 41 (15) Adopt and publish a code of professional conduct for all persons licensed
42 under this Chapter.
- 43 (16) Adopt and publish a code of minimum practice standards for landscape
44 construction and contracting.
- 45 (17) Adopt a seal containing the name of the Board for use on licenses and
46 official reports issued by the Board.

47 **"§ 89D-16. Application for license; qualifications; examination; issuance.**

48 (a) Upon application to the Board and payment of the required fees, an applicant for
49 licensure as a landscape contractor may sit for the examination if the applicant submits
50 evidence demonstrating the applicant's qualifications for licensure under this Chapter as
51 prescribed in rules adopted by the Board and meets all of the following qualifications:

- 1 (1) Is at least 18 years of age.
- 2 (2) Is of good moral character as determined by the Board.
- 3 (3) Provides evidence of business identification as required by the Board.
- 4 (4) Has at least three years of experience in landscape construction or
5 contracting or the educational equivalent. Two years of educational training
6 in landscape construction or contracting shall be the equivalent of one year
7 of experience.
- 8 (5) Files with the Board and maintains a corporate surety bond executed by a
9 company authorized to do business in this State or an irrevocable letter of
10 credit issued by an insured institution. The surety bond or the letter of credit
11 shall be in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The surety bond or
12 letter of credit shall be approved by the Board as to form and shall be
13 conditioned upon the obligor faithfully conforming to and abiding by the
14 provisions of this Chapter. Any person claiming to be injured by an act of a
15 licensed landscape contractor that constitutes a violation of this Chapter may
16 institute an action to recover against the licensee and the surety.

17 (b) If the applicant meets all the qualifications in subsection (a) of this section, the
18 applicant shall be required to pass an examination administered by the Board before the Board
19 may issue the license. The Board shall establish the scope and subject matter of the
20 examination to be administered. The Board shall administer examinations at least twice a year
21 at a time and place to be determined by the Board.

22 (c) When the Board determines that an applicant has met all the qualifications for
23 licensure, submitted the required fee, and passed the examination, the Board shall issue a
24 license to the applicant.

25 **§ 89D-17. Corporations; partnerships; persons doing business under trade name.**

26 (a) The Board may issue a license in the name of a corporation if the corporation pays
27 the license fee required by G.S. 89D-21 and complies with the following:

- 28 (1) One or more officers or full-time employees, or both, empowered to act for
29 the corporation, are individuals licensed under this Chapter.
- 30 (2) Only the officers or employees described in subdivision (1) of this
31 subsection execute contracts for landscape construction or contracting in the
32 name of a corporation and exercise direct supervision over the work
33 performed pursuant to the contract.

34 (b) The Board may issue a license in the name of a limited liability company if the
35 company pays the fee required by G.S. 89D-21 and complies with the following:

- 36 (1) One or more managers or executives, as defined in G.S. 57C-1-03, or
37 full-time employees, or a combination thereof, are individuals licensed under
38 this Chapter.
- 39 (2) Only the managers, executives, or employees described in subdivision (1) of
40 this subsection execute contracts for landscape construction or contracting in
41 the name of the limited liability company and exercise direct supervision
42 over the work performed pursuant to the contract.

43 (c) The Board may issue a license in the name of a partnership if the partnership pays
44 the fee required by G.S. 89D-21 and complies with the following:

- 45 (1) One or more general partners or full-time employees empowered to act for
46 the partnership are individuals licensed under this Chapter.
- 47 (2) Only the partners or employees described in subdivision (1) of this
48 subsection execute contracts for landscape construction or contracting in the
49 name of the partnership and exercise direct supervision over the work
50 performed pursuant to the contract.

1 (d) The Board may issue a license in an assumed or designated trade name if the owner
2 of the business pays the fee required by G.S. 89D-21 and complies with the following:

3 (1) The owner or one or more full-time employees empowered to act for the
4 owner is an individual licensed under this Chapter.

5 (2) Only the persons described in subdivision (1) of this subsection execute
6 contracts for landscape construction or contracting in the assumed or
7 designated trade name of the business and exercise direct supervision over
8 the work performed pursuant to the contract.

9 (e) When the Board issues a license under this section, the Board shall indicate on the
10 license the name and license number of the individual licensee connected to the corporation,
11 partnership, or business conducted under an assumed or designated trade name.

12 (f) A person licensed pursuant to this section shall exercise direct supervision over a
13 contract for landscape construction or contracting until the contract is completed.

14 (g) When a licensee executes a contract for landscape construction or contracting in any
15 capacity other than as a sole proprietor contracting on the licensee's own behalf, the person on
16 whose behalf the licensee is executing the contract shall be licensed under this section.

17 (h) A corporation, partnership, or person doing business under an assumed or
18 designated trade name shall notify the Board in accordance with rules adopted by the Board if
19 an individual licensee who is indicated in the license issued under this section ceases to be an
20 officer, partner, owner, or employee of the corporation, partnership, or person doing business
21 under the assumed or designated trade name. If the corporation, partnership, or person no
22 longer has an officer, general partner, owner, or employee described in subdivision (a)(1),
23 (b)(1), or (c)(1) of this section, the corporation, partnership, or person shall have 90 days from
24 the date the officer, general partner, owner, or employee ceases the relationship with the
25 corporation, partnership, or person to satisfy the requirements described in subdivision (a)(1),
26 (b)(1), or (c)(1) of this section. After 90 days, if the corporation, partnership, or person does not
27 have an officer, general partner, owner, or employee as described in subdivision (a)(1), (b)(1),
28 or (c)(1) of this section, the license issued under this section is automatically suspended, and
29 the corporation, partnership, or person shall cease practicing landscape construction or
30 contracting.

31 **"§ 89D-18. Licensing of nonresidents.**

32 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

33 (1) Delinquent income tax debt. – The amount of income tax due as stated in a
34 final notice of assessment issued to a taxpayer by the Secretary of Revenue
35 when the taxpayer no longer has the right to contest the amount.

36 (2) Foreign corporation. – A corporation as defined in G.S. 55-1-40.

37 (3) Foreign entity. – A foreign corporation, a foreign limited liability company,
38 or a foreign partnership.

39 (4) Foreign limited liability company. – A company as defined in
40 G.S. 57C-1-03.

41 (5) Foreign partnership. – One of the following that does not have a permanent
42 place of business in this State:

43 a. A foreign limited partnership as defined in G.S. 59-102.

44 b. A general partnership formed under the laws of a jurisdiction other
45 than this State.

46 (b) Licensing. – Except as provided in this section, the Board may issue a license to a
47 nonresident individual or a foreign entity that meets the requirements for licensure under this
48 Chapter.

49 (c) Certificate of Authority Required. – The Board shall not issue a license for a foreign
50 corporation unless the corporation has obtained a certificate of authority from the Secretary of
51 State pursuant to Article 15 of Chapter 55 of the General Statutes. The Board shall not issue a

1 license for a foreign limited liability company unless the company has obtained a certificate of
2 authority from the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 57C of the General
3 Statutes.

4 (d) Information. – The Board, upon request, shall provide the Secretary of Revenue the
5 name, address, and tax identification number of every nonresident individual and foreign entity
6 licensed by the Board. The information to be provided under this section shall be in a form
7 required by the Secretary of Revenue.

8 (e) Delinquents. – If the Secretary of Revenue determines that any nonresident
9 individual or foreign entity licensed by the Board owes a delinquent income tax debt, the
10 Secretary of Revenue may notify the Board of the nonresident individual and foreign entity and
11 instruct the Board not to renew the nonresident individual or foreign entity's license. The Board
12 shall not renew the license of a nonresident individual or foreign entity identified by the
13 Secretary of Revenue unless the Board receives a written statement from the Secretary that (i)
14 the debt has been paid or (ii) the debt is being paid pursuant to an installment agreement.

15 **"§ 89D-19. Reciprocity.**

16 The Board may issue a license, without examination, to any person who is a landscape
17 contractor licensed, certified, or registered in another state or country if the requirements for
18 licensure, certification, or registration in the other state or country are substantially equivalent
19 to the requirements for licensure in this State.

20 **"§ 89D-20. License renewal and continuing education.**

21 (a) Every license issued under this Chapter shall be renewed on or before the first day
22 of August of each year. Any person who desires to continue to practice shall apply for a license
23 renewal and shall submit the required fee. Licenses that are not renewed shall be automatically
24 revoked. A license may be renewed at any time within one year after its expiration if (i) the
25 applicant pays the required renewal fee and late renewal fee; (ii) the Board finds that the
26 applicant has not used the license in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter
27 or engaged in the practice of landscape construction or contracting after notice of revocation;
28 and (iii) the applicant is otherwise eligible for licensure under the provisions of this Chapter.
29 When necessary, the Board may require licensees to demonstrate continued competence as a
30 condition of license renewal.

31 (b) As a condition of license renewal, a licensee shall meet the continuing education
32 requirements set by the Board. Each licensee shall complete seven continuing education units
33 per year. The Board may suspend a licensee's license for 30 days for failure to obtain
34 continuing education units required by this subsection. Upon payment of a reinstatement fee,
35 the license shall be reinstated. Failure to request a reinstatement of the license and payment of
36 the reinstatement fee shall result in the forfeiture of a license. Upon forfeiture, a person shall be
37 required to submit a new application and retake the examination as provided in this Chapter.

38 **"§ 89D-21. Expenses and fees.**

39 (a) The Board may impose the following fees not to exceed the amounts listed below:

- 40 (1) Application fee \$100.00
- 41 (2) Examination fee 250.00
- 42 (3) Individual license fee and individual license renewal..... 100.00
- 43 (4) Initial corporate, limited liability company, partnership,
- 44 or trade-name license 100.00
- 45 (5) Corporate, limited liability company, partnership,
- 46 or trade-name license renewal..... 100.00
- 47 (6) Late renewal fee 50.00
- 48 (7) Reinstatement fee 500.00
- 49 (8) License by reciprocity 250.00
- 50 (9) Duplicate license 25.00

1 (b) When the Board uses a testing service for the preparation, administration, or grading
2 of examinations, the Board may charge the applicant the actual cost of the examination services
3 and a pro-rated portion of the examination fee.

4 **"§ 89D-22. Disciplinary action.**

5 The Board may deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license or refuse to issue or renew a
6 license if a licensee or applicant does any of the following:

- 7 (1) Employs the use of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining or
8 attempting to obtain a license or the renewal of a license.
- 9 (2) Practices or attempts to practice landscape construction or contracting by
10 fraudulent misrepresentation.
- 11 (3) Commits an act of gross malpractice or incompetence as determined by the
12 Board.
- 13 (4) Has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a crime that indicates
14 that the person is unfit or incompetent to practice as a landscape contractor
15 or that indicates that the person has deceived or defrauded the public.
- 16 (5) Has been declared incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 17 (6) Has willfully violated any provision in this Chapter or any rules adopted by
18 the Board.
- 19 (7) Uses or attempts to use the seal in a fraudulent or unauthorized manner.
- 20 (8) Fails to file the required surety bond or letter of credit or to keep the bond or
21 letter of credit in force.

22 **"§ 89D-23. Civil penalties.**

23 (a) In addition to taking any of the actions permitted under G.S. 89D-22, the Board may
24 assess a civil penalty not in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each violation of any
25 section of this Chapter or the violation of any rules adopted by the Board. The clear proceeds of
26 any civil penalty assessed under this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and
27 Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2.

28 (b) Before imposing and assessing a civil penalty and fixing the amount of the penalty,
29 the Board shall, as a part of its deliberations, take into consideration the following factors:

- 30 (1) The nature, gravity, and persistence of the particular violation.
- 31 (2) The appropriateness of the imposition of a civil penalty when considered
32 alone or in combination with other punishment.
- 33 (3) Whether the violation was willful and malicious.
- 34 (4) Any other factors that would tend to mitigate or aggravate the violations
35 found to exist.

36 **"§ 89D-24. Injunction to prevent violation; notification of complaints.**

37 (a) If the Board finds that a person who does not have a license issued under this
38 Chapter is engaging in the practice of landscape construction or contracting, the Board may
39 appear in its own name in superior court in actions for injunctive relief to prevent any person
40 from violating the provisions of this Chapter or the rules adopted by the Board.

41 (b) A licensed landscape contractor shall notify the Board of any written complaints
42 filed against the landscape contractor not resolved within 30 days from the date the complaint
43 was filed by registered mail to the Board."

44 **SECTION 3.(a)** Members serving on the North Carolina Landscape Contractors'
45 Registration Board on the effective date of this act shall continue to serve until members of the
46 North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board, newly structured under
47 G.S. 89D-14(a), as enacted by Section 2 of this act, are appointed.

48 **SECTION 3.(b)** Once the term of one of the current public members appointed by
49 the Governor expires, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the
50 House of Representatives, shall appoint a licensed landscape contractor in the business of
51 landscape construction and contracting. Once the term of one of the current members appointed

1 by the Commissioner of Agriculture expires, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation
2 of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, shall appoint a licensed landscape contractor in the
3 business of landscape construction and contracting. All records, staff, funds, and other items of
4 the North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Registration Board are transferred to and made the
5 property of the North Carolina Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board.

6 **SECTION 4.** Any person, who on or before December 31, 2011, meets at least one
7 of the following criteria shall be issued a landscape contractor's license by the North Carolina
8 Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board, without the requirement of examination, upon
9 submission of a completed application and payment of the application fee on or before August
10 1, 2012:

- 11 (1) Is registered as a landscape contractor.
- 12 (2) Is licensed as an irrigation contractor.
- 13 (3) Is certified as a turf grass professional.
- 14 (4) Has 10 years of documented experience in the person's own business as a
15 landscape contractor or 10 years of documented experience as an employee
16 in a landscape contracting business, meets all other requirements and
17 qualifications for licensure as a landscape contractor, and has one of the
18 following:
 - 19 a. One year of credit for a two-year degree in related educational
20 training.
 - 21 b. Two years of credit for a four-year degree in related educational
22 training.
 - 23 c. Up to two years of credit for education or business experience in
24 general business management.

25 Landscape contractors currently registered under Chapter 89D of the General Statutes shall not
26 be required to renew the registration for the 2012 calendar year to qualify for the landscape
27 contractor's license, as enacted by Section 1 of this act.

28 **SECTION 5.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective August 1, 2012. The
29 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.