

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to continuing education requirements;
 3 amending s. 455.2123, F.S.; requiring, rather than
 4 authorizing, a board, or the Department of Business
 5 and Professional Regulation when there is no board, to
 6 allow by rule that distance learning may be used to
 7 satisfy continuing education requirements; revising
 8 the requirements that such continuing education must
 9 satisfy; amending s. 455.2124, F.S.; requiring the
 10 board, or the department when there is no board, to
 11 exempt certain individuals from completing their
 12 continuing education requirements; providing
 13 applicability; requiring the department and each
 14 affected board to adopt rules; authorizing the
 15 department to adopt emergency rules; specifying time
 16 in which such emergency rules are effective;
 17 authorizing renewal of such emergency rules in certain
 18 circumstances; providing for the expiration of such
 19 rulemaking authority; providing an effective date.

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21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23 Section 1. Section 455.2123, Florida Statutes, is amended
 24 to read:

25 455.2123 Continuing education.—A board, or the department

26 | when there is no board, shall allow ~~may provide~~ by rule that
 27 | distance learning may be used to satisfy continuing education
 28 | requirements. A board, or the department when there is no board,
 29 | shall approve distance learning courses as an alternative to
 30 | classroom courses to satisfy continuing education requirements.
 31 | A board, or the department when there is no board, ~~provided for~~
 32 | ~~in part VIII, part XV, or part XVI of chapter 468 or part I or~~
 33 | ~~part II of chapter 475~~ and may not require centralized
 34 | examinations for completion of continuing education requirements
 35 | for the professions licensed under part VIII, part XV, or part
 36 | XVI of chapter 468 or part I or part II of chapter 475.

37 | Section 2. Section 455.2124, Florida Statutes, is amended
 38 | to read:

39 | 455.2124 Proration of or not requiring continuing
 40 | education.—

41 | (1) A board, or the department when there is no board,
 42 | may:

43 | (a)-(1) Prorate continuing education for new licensees by
 44 | requiring half of the required continuing education for any
 45 | applicant who becomes licensed with more than half the renewal
 46 | period remaining and no continuing education for any applicant
 47 | who becomes licensed with half or less than half of the renewal
 48 | period remaining; or

49 | (b)-(2) Require no continuing education until the first
 50 | full renewal cycle of the licensee.

51
52 These options shall also apply when continuing education is
53 first required or the number of hours required is increased by
54 law or the board, or the department when there is no board.

55 (2) (a) A board, or the department when there is no board,
56 shall exempt an individual from completing the continuing
57 education required for renewal of a license for a renewal period
58 if:

59 1. The individual holds an active license issued by the
60 board or the department to practice the profession.

61 2. The individual has continuously held the license for at
62 least 10 years.

63 3. Disciplinary action has not been imposed on the
64 individual's license.

65 (b) This subsection does not apply to:

66 1. Engineers regulated by chapter 471;

67 2. Certified public accountants regulated by chapter 473;

68 3. Brokers, broker associates, and sales associates
69 regulated by part I of chapter 475;

70 4. Appraisers regulated by part II of chapter 475;

71 5. Architects or interior designers regulated by part I of
72 chapter 481; or

73 6. Contractors regulated by chapter 489.

74 (3) The department and each affected board shall adopt
75 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this

76 section.

77 Section 3. (1) The Department of Business and
78 Professional Regulation is authorized, and all conditions are
79 deemed to be met, to adopt emergency rules pursuant to s.
80 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing the
81 amendments made by this act to s. 455.2124, Florida Statutes,
82 including establishing procedures to facilitate the exemption
83 for eligible individuals from completing continuing education.

84 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, emergency rules adopted
85 pursuant to subsection (1) are effective for 6 months after
86 adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of procedures to
87 adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of the emergency
88 rules.

89 (3) This section expires on January 1, 2026.

90 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.