

The House Committee on Regulated Industries offers the following substitute to SB 374:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 31 and 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health and
2 professions and businesses, respectively, so as to change certain provisions relating to soil
3 classifiers and professional land surveyors; to change the necessary experience requirements
4 to qualify as a soil classifier to conduct soil investigations and prepare soil reports for an
5 on-site sewage management system; to revise the definition of "soil classifier"; to provide
6 for educational, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a professional
7 land surveyor; to change and provide certain provisions related to the issuance of land
8 surveyor intern certificates; to conform a cross-reference; to provide for related matters; to
9 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to health, is amended by revising
13 subsection (d) of Code Section 31-3-5, relating to functions of county boards of health, as
14 follows:

S. B. 374 (SUB)

15 "(d)(1) Any person may register with the department to conduct soil investigations and
16 prepare soil reports of a site within the state for an on-site sewage management system
17 who meets any one of the following criteria:

18 (A) Qualifies as a soil classifier as defined in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) of this
19 subsection;

20 (B) Holds a valid certificate of registration as a professional engineer issued pursuant
21 to Chapter 15 of Title 43 and is practicing within his or her area of engineering
22 competency;

23 (C) Holds a valid certificate of registration as a registered geologist issued pursuant to
24 Chapter 19 of Title 43 and is practicing within his or her area of geologic competency;
25 or

26 (D) Is a soil and water conservation technician as defined in subparagraph (A) of
27 paragraph (3) of this subsection.

28 (2) Upon the submission of an evaluation of the suitability of a site within the state for
29 an on-site sewage management system by such a person who is registered with the
30 department, the county board of health shall be required to accept the evaluation unless
31 such evaluation is found by the county board of health to be deficient or questionable.
32 If the county board of health finds such evaluation to be deficient or questionable, the
33 board shall, within three working days of making such finding, issue a written
34 determination stating all deficiencies and all measures needed to correct the deficiencies.
35 A copy of this determination shall be provided to the state director of environmental
36 health.

37 (3) As used in this subsection, the term:

38 (A) 'Soil and water conservation technician' means a person employed as a soil and
39 water conservation technician by a soil and water conservation district provided for in
40 Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 2.

41 (B) 'Soil classifier' means a person who:

- 42 (i) Holds at least a bachelor of science degree from an accredited college or
43 university with a major in soil science or a related field of science. This degree shall
44 include 30 semester credit hours or equivalent quarter credit hours in the biological,
45 physical, chemical, and earth sciences with a minimum of 15 semester credit hours
46 or equivalent quarter hours in soil science courses meeting the following distribution:
- 47 (I) A minimum of one course in soil classification, morphology, genesis, and
48 mapping; and
 - 49 (II) The remaining soil science credits ~~must~~ shall be in at least three of the
50 following eight categories: introductory soil science; soil fertility; soil
51 microbiology; soil chemistry; soil physics; soil management, soils and land use, or
52 soils and the environment; soil mineralogy; or a three credit maximum in
53 independent study, geology, or hydrology; ~~and~~
- 54 (ii) Has at least four years of verifiable full-time or equivalent part-time experience.
55 Two years of such experience, as determined by the department's soil classifiers
56 advisory committee, shall have been obtained after meeting all the educational
57 requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph under the supervision of a soil
58 classifier who has met the education and experience requirements provided in this
59 subparagraph. ~~Such experience must be obtained after meeting all educational~~
60 ~~requirements defined in this subparagraph~~ and ~~must~~ shall have been spent actively
61 mapping, identifying, and classifying soil features and interpreting the influence of
62 soil features on soil uses, including, but not limited to, conducting soil investigations
63 for determining the suitability of sites for on-site sewage management systems as
64 approved by the department's soil classifiers advisory committee. The remaining two
65 years of such experience, as determined by the department's soil classifiers advisory
66 committee, shall have occurred prior to, during, or after meeting all the educational
67 requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph and shall have included the
68 utilization of soil science concepts and techniques in mapping, identifying, and

69 classifying soil features and interpreting the influence of soil features on soil uses,
 70 including, but not limited to, conducting soil investigations for determining the
 71 suitability of sites for on-site sewage management systems as approved by the
 72 department's soil classifiers advisory committee; and
 73 (iii) Has successfully passed a written examination pertaining to site investigations
 74 for on-site sewage management systems administered or approved by the department."

75 **SECTION 2.**

76 Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professions and businesses,
 77 is amended by revising paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-15-2, relating to definitions relative
 78 to professional engineers and land surveyors, as follows:

79 "(2) 'Certificate' means any certificate issued under Code Section 43-15-8 or ~~43-15-12~~
 80 45-15-13."

81 **SECTION 3.**

82 Said title is further amended by repealing Code Section 43-15-12, relating to surveyor intern
 83 certificate and eligibility, and designating said Code section as reserved.

84 **SECTION 4.**

85 Said title is further amended by repealing Code Section 43-15-13, relating to professional
 86 land surveyor license and eligibility, and enacting a new Code section to read as follows:

87 "43-15-13.

88 (a) To be eligible for licensure as a professional land surveyor, an applicant shall:

89 (1) Complete the education and training requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (C)
 90 of this paragraph as follows:

- 91 (A)(i)(I) Earn a bachelor's degree in a curriculum approved by the board. Such
92 applicant shall complete a minimum of 18 semester hours in land surveying subjects
93 acceptable to the board as a part of or separate from such degree; or
94 (II) Hold a certificate of registration as a professional engineer issued pursuant to
95 chapter; and
96 (ii) Acquire not less than three years of combined office and field experience in land
97 surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board;
98 (B)(i) Earn an associate's degree in a curriculum approved by the board. Such
99 applicant shall complete a minimum of 18 semester hours in land surveying subjects
100 acceptable to the board as a part of or separate from such degree; and
101 (ii) Acquire not less than five years of combined office and field experience in land
102 surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board; or
103 (C)(i) Earn a high school diploma or its equivalent. Such applicant shall complete
104 a minimum of 18 semester hours in land surveying subjects acceptable to the board;
105 and
106 (ii) Acquire not less than eight years of combined office and field experience in land
107 surveying of a nature satisfactory to the board; and
108 (2)(A) Pass each of the following board approved examinations:
109 (i) The fundamentals of surveying examination;
110 (ii) The principles and practices of land surveying examination; and
111 (iii) The laws and history of land surveying in Georgia examination.
112 (B) The examinations listed in divisions (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (A) of this
113 paragraph may be taken after completion of the education requirements of paragraph
114 (1) of this subsection; provided, however, that the examination in division (i) of
115 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be taken and passed before the examination
116 in division (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is taken, and the examination

117 listed in division (ii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be taken and passed
118 before the examination in division (iii) of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph is taken.
119 (b) The board may issue a land surveyor intern certificate to an applicant who has:
120 (1) Completed the education requirements set forth in division (a)(1)(A)(i), (a)(1)(B)(i),
121 or (a)(1)(C)(i) of this Code section;
122 (2) Passed the board approved fundamentals of surveying examination as required under
123 division (a)(2)(A)(i) of this Code section; and
124 (3) Completed such additional requirements as may be required by the board through
125 rules and regulations."

126 **SECTION 5.**

127 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.