
HOUSE BILL 1443

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Wood, Schoesler, Cox, Grant, Chandler and Hunt

Read first time 01/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to obtaining a geologist license; amending RCW
2 18.220.010 and 18.220.060; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.220.010 and 2000 c 253 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Board" means the geologist licensing board.

9 (2) "Department" means the department of licensing.

10 (3) "Director" means the director of the department of licensing.

11 (4) "Engineering geologist" means a geologist who, by reason of his
12 or her knowledge of engineering geology, acquired by education and
13 practical experience, is qualified to engage in the practice of
14 engineering geology, has met the qualifications in engineering geology
15 established under this chapter, and has been issued a license in
16 engineering geology by the board.

17 (5) "Engineering geology" means a specialty of geology affecting
18 the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of engineering works

1 and other human activities where geological factors and conditions
2 impact the public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health,
3 property, and the environment.

4 (6) "Geologist" means a person who, by reason of his or her
5 knowledge of geology, mathematics, the environment, and the supporting
6 physical and life sciences, acquired by education and practical
7 experience, has met the qualifications established under this chapter,
8 and has been issued a certificate of licensing as a geologist by the
9 board.

10 (7) "Geology" means the science that includes: Treatment of the
11 earth and its origin and history, in general; the investigation of the
12 earth's constituent rocks, minerals, solids, fluids, including surface
13 and underground waters, gases, and other materials; and the study of
14 the natural agents, forces, and processes that cause changes in the
15 earth.

16 (8) "Hydrogeology" means a science that involves the study of the
17 waters of the earth, including the study of the occurrence,
18 circulation, distribution, chemistry, remediation, or quality of water
19 or its role as a natural agent that causes changes in the earth, and
20 the investigation and collection of data concerning waters in the
21 atmosphere or on the surface or in the interior of the earth, including
22 data regarding the interaction of water with other gases, solids, or
23 fluids.

24 (9) "Licensed specialty geologist" means a licensed geologist who
25 has met the qualifications in a specialty of geology established under
26 this chapter and has been issued a license in that specialty by the
27 board.

28 (10) "Practice of engineering geology" means performance of
29 geological service or work including but not limited to consultation,
30 investigation, evaluation, planning, geological mapping, and inspection
31 of geological work, and the responsible supervision thereof, the
32 performance of which is related to public welfare or the safeguarding
33 of life, health, property, and the environment, except as otherwise
34 specifically provided by this chapter, and includes but is not limited
35 to the commonly recognized geological practices of construction
36 geology, environmental geology, and urban geology.

37 (11) "Practice of geology" means performance of geological service
38 or work including but not limited to collection of geological data,

1 consultation, investigation, evaluation, interpreting, planning,
2 geological mapping, or inspection relating to a service or work that
3 applies to geology, and the responsible supervision thereof, the
4 performance of which is related to public welfare or the safeguarding
5 of life, health, property, and the environment, except as otherwise
6 specifically provided by this chapter.

7 (12) "Practice of geology for others" includes, but is not limited
8 to:

9 (a) The preparation of geologic reports, documents, or exhibits by
10 any commission, board, department, district, or division of the state
11 or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other
12 public body, or by the employees or staff members of the commission,
13 board, department, district, or division of the state or any political
14 subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other public body when
15 the reports, documents, or exhibits are disseminated or made available
16 to the public in such a manner that the public may reasonably be
17 expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby; and

18 (b) The performance of geological services by any individual, firm,
19 partnership, corporation, or other association or by the employees or
20 staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of the
21 organization is the practice of geology, which the geological reports,
22 documents, or exhibits constituting the practice of geology are
23 disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or
24 organization in such a manner that the public or individual or
25 combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon
26 or be affected thereby.

27 However, geological reports, documents, or exhibits that are
28 prepared by the employees or staff members of any individual, firm,
29 partnership, corporation, or other association or commission, board,
30 department, district, or division of the state or any political
31 subdivision thereof or any county, city, or other public body that are
32 for use solely within such organizations are considered in-house
33 reports, documents, or exhibits and are not the practice of geology for
34 others unless or until the reports are disseminated or made available
35 as set forth in (a) or (b) of this subsection.

36 (13) "Practice of hydrogeology" means the performance of or offer
37 to perform any hydrogeologic service or work in which the public
38 welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, environment, or property

1 is concerned or involved. This includes the collection of geological
2 data, and consultation, investigation, evaluation, interpretation,
3 planning, or inspection relating to a service or work that applies
4 hydrogeology.

5 (14) "Responsible charge" means the exercise of fully independent
6 control and direction of geological work or the supervision of such
7 work, and being fully responsible, answerable, accountable, or liable
8 for the results.

9 (15) "Specialty" means a branch of geology that has been recognized
10 under this chapter for the purposes of licensure. Engineering geology
11 ~~((is))~~ and hydrogeology are considered to be ~~((a—specialty))~~
12 specialties of geology.

13 (16) "Subordinate" means any person who assists in the practice of
14 geology by a licensed geologist or an exempt person, without assuming
15 the responsible charge of the work.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.220.060 and 2000 c 253 s 7 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 In order to become a licensed geologist, an applicant must meet the
19 following requirements:

20 (1) The applicant shall be of good moral and ethical character as
21 attested to by letters of reference submitted by the applicant or as
22 otherwise determined by the board;

23 (2) The applicant shall have graduated from a course of study in
24 geology satisfactory to the board or satisfy educational equivalents
25 determined by the board;

26 (3) The applicant shall have a documented record of a minimum of
27 five years of experience in geology or a specialty of geology, obtained
28 subsequent to completion of the academic requirements specified in this
29 section, in geological work of a character satisfactory to the board,
30 demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible
31 charge of such work upon licensing as a geologist. The board shall
32 require that three years of the experience be gained under the
33 supervision of a geologist licensed in this or any other state, or
34 under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the board, are
35 qualified to have responsible charge of geological work;

36 (4) The applicant shall have passed an examination covering the

1 fundamentals and practice of geology prescribed or accepted by the
2 board;

3 (5) The applicant shall meet other general or individual
4 requirements established by the board pursuant to its authority under
5 this chapter;

6 (6) For licensing in any geological specialty recognized under this
7 chapter, an applicant must first be a licensed geologist under this
8 chapter, and then meet the following requirements:

9 (a) In addition to the educational requirements for licensing as a
10 geologist defined in subsection (2) of this section, an applicant for
11 licensing in any specialty of geology established by the board shall
12 have successfully completed advanced study pertinent to their
13 specialty, or equivalent seminars or on-the-job training acceptable to
14 the board;

15 (b) The applicant's experience shall include a documented record of
16 five years of experience, after completion of the academic requirements
17 specified in this subsection, in geological work in the applicable
18 specialty of a character satisfactory to the board, and demonstrating
19 that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of the
20 specialty work upon licensing in that specialty of geology. The board
21 shall require that three years of the experience be gained under the
22 supervision of a geologist licensed in the specialty in this or any
23 other state, or under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of
24 the board, are qualified to have responsible charge of geological work
25 in the specialty; and

26 (c) The applicant must pass an examination in the applicable
27 specialty prescribed or accepted by the board;

28 (7) The following standards are applicable to experience in the
29 practice of geology or a specialty required under subsections (3) and
30 (6) of this section:

31 (a) Each year of professional practice of a character acceptable to
32 the board, carried out under the direct supervision of a geologist who
33 (i) is licensed in this state or is licensed in another state with
34 licensing standards substantially similar to those under this chapter;
35 or (ii) meets the educational and experience requirements for
36 licensing, but who is not required to be licensed under the limitations
37 of this chapter, qualifies as one year of professional experience in
38 geology;

1 (b) Each year of professional specialty practice of a character
2 acceptable to the board, carried out under the direct supervision of a
3 (i) geologist who is licensed in a specialty under this chapter, or who
4 is licensed as a specialty geologist in another state that has
5 licensing requirements that are substantially similar to this chapter;
6 or (ii) specialty geologist who meets the educational and experience
7 requirements for licensing, but who is not required to be licensed
8 under the limitations of this chapter, qualifies as one year of
9 practice in the applicable specialty of geology; and

10 (c) Experience in professional practice, of a character acceptable
11 to the board and acquired prior to one year after July 1, 2001,
12 qualifies if the experience (i) was acquired under the direct
13 supervision of a geologist who meets the educational and experience
14 requirements for licensing under this chapter, or who is licensed in
15 another state that has licensing requirements that are substantially
16 similar to this chapter; or (ii) would constitute responsible charge of
17 professional geological work, as determined by the board;

18 (8) Each year of full-time graduate study in the geological
19 sciences or in a specialty of geology shall qualify as one year of
20 professional experience in geology or the applicable specialty of
21 geology, up to a maximum of two years. The board may accept geological
22 research, teaching of geology, or a geological specialty at the college
23 or university level as qualifying experience, provided that such
24 research or teaching, in the judgment of the board, is comparable to
25 experience obtained in the practice of geology or a specialty thereof;

26 (9) An applicant who applies for licensing (~~((within one year after~~
27 ~~July 1, 2001))~~ before July 1, 2003), shall be considered to be qualified
28 for licensing, without further written examination, if the applicant
29 possesses the following qualifications:

30 (a)(i) A specific record of graduation with a bachelor of science
31 or bachelor of arts or higher degree, with a major in geology granted
32 by an approved institution of higher education acceptable to the board;
33 or

34 (ii) Graduation from an approved institution of higher education in
35 a four-year academic degree program other than geology, but with the
36 required number of course hours as defined by the board to qualify as
37 a geologist or engineering geologist; and

1 (b) Experience consisting of a minimum of five years of
2 professional practice in geology or a specialty thereof as required
3 under subsections (3) and (7) of this section, of a character
4 acceptable to the board;

5 (10) An applicant who applies for licensing in a specialty within
6 one year after recognition of the specialty under this chapter shall be
7 considered qualified for licensing in that specialty, without further
8 written examination, if the applicant:

9 (a) Is qualified for licensing as a geologist in this state; and

10 (b) Has experience consisting of a minimum five years of
11 professional practice in the applicable specialty of geology as
12 required under subsections (3) and (7) of this section, of a character
13 acceptable to the board; and

14 (11) The geologists initially appointed to the board under RCW
15 18.220.030 shall be qualified for licensing under subsections (7) and
16 (8) of this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
20 immediately.

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