
SENATE BILL 5065

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senator Swecker

Read first time 01/14/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

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

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.220.060 and 2000 c 253 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

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

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

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

14 (3) The applicant shall have a documented record of a minimum of
15 five years of experience in geology or a specialty of geology, obtained
16 subsequent to completion of the academic requirements specified in this
17 section, in geological work of a character satisfactory to the board,
18 demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible
19 charge of such work upon licensing as a geologist. The board shall

1 require that three years of the experience be gained under the
2 supervision of a geologist licensed in this or any other state, or
3 under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the board, are
4 qualified to have responsible charge of geological work;

5 (4) The applicant shall have passed an examination covering the
6 fundamentals and practice of geology prescribed or accepted by the
7 board;

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (a) Each year of professional practice of a character acceptable to
37 the board, carried out under the direct supervision of a geologist who
38 (i) is licensed in this state or is licensed in another state with

1 licensing standards substantially similar to those under this chapter;
2 or (ii) meets the educational and experience requirements for
3 licensing, but who is not required to be licensed under the limitations
4 of this chapter, qualifies as one year of professional experience in
5 geology;

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

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

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

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

35 (a)(i) A specific record of graduation with a bachelor of science
36 or bachelor of arts or higher degree, with a major in geology granted
37 by an approved institution of higher education acceptable to the board;
38 or

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

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

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

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

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

18 (11) The geologists initially appointed to the board under RCW
19 18.220.030 shall be qualified for licensing under subsections (7) and
20 (8) of this section.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
23 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
24 immediately.

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