

By: Laubenberg, Hamilton, Driver

H.B. No. 959

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 959:

By: Homer

C.S.H.B. No. 959

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of an electrician license without examination to certain applicants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 1305, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1305.1615 to read as follows:

Sec. 1305.1615. CERTAIN APPLICANTS WHO ARE VETERANS. The department shall issue a license without examination to an individual who:

(1) was on active duty in the United States armed forces during the period of March 1, 2004, to June 1, 2004;

(2) submits an application and any other information required by department rule to the department not later than the 90th day after the date the individual is released or discharged from active duty in the armed forces;

(3) has the experience required for the license under this chapter; and

(4) pays the application fee.

SECTION 2. Section 1305.202, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1305.202. [~~SCOPE OF~~] MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL LICENSE.

(a) A license to perform electrical work issued by a municipality or region is valid only in the municipality or region or in another municipality or region under a reciprocal agreement.

1 (b) The department shall issue an equivalent license
2 without examination to an individual who holds a license to perform
3 electrical work or electrical sign work issued by a municipality or
4 region that elects to discontinue the municipality's or region's
5 licensing program if the individual:

6 (1) held the municipal or regional license for the
7 preceding year;

8 (2) has the experience required for the license under
9 this chapter; and

10 (3) submits an application for a license under this
11 chapter not later than the 90th day after the date the municipal or
12 regional program is discontinued.

13 SECTION 3. Sections 3(a) and (k), Chapter 1062, Acts of the
14 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, are amended to read as
15 follows:

16 (a) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall
17 issue a license to a qualified applicant under this section who:

18 (1) applies for a license under this section not later
19 than December 31, 2005 [~~June 1, 2004~~];

20 (2) submits to the department the information required
21 by rule;

22 (3) has the experience required by this section; and

23 (4) pays the application fee.

24 (k) This section expires September 1, 2007 [~~2005~~].

25 SECTION 4. (a) For purposes of the issuance of a license
26 under Section 3, Chapter 1062, Acts of the 78th Legislature,
27 Regular Session, 2003:

1 (1) the executive director of the Texas Department of
2 Licensing and Regulation shall accept alternative documentation of
3 on-the-job experience approved by the department if the license
4 applicant is applying for a license in an area in which a municipal
5 or regional licensing program does not exist and is unable to
6 provide proof of on-the-job training certified by a master
7 electrician or master sign electrician, as appropriate; and

8 (2) an individual applying for a license in an area in
9 which a municipal or regional licensing program exists is eligible
10 only for an equivalent license issued by the department.

11 (b) The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall
12 provide notice of the period extended as provided by this section in
13 which an applicant may apply for a license under Section 3, Chapter
14 1062, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, to:

15 (1) all municipal and regional licensing programs in
16 this state;

17 (2) all counties in this state; and

18 (3) all businesses in this state that sell electrical
19 supplies and equipment.

20 (c) In the notice required under Subsection (b)(1) of this
21 section, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation shall
22 request that the municipal or regional licensing program provide
23 notice of the extended application period to all individuals
24 holding electrical licenses issued by that program.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.