

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Construction Industry Licensing Board

General Information

Meeting type: General Board Meeting

Meeting dates: April 13-15, 2005, Embassy Suites Orlando Downtown, Orlando, FL

Board members: Michelle B. Kane, Chair, Joan M. Brown, Vice-Chair, Edward M. Weller, Barry Kalmanson, Lee-En Chung, Thomas Thornton, Robert Stewart, Jacqueline Watts, Michael Blankenship, Raymond Holloway, Carl E. Engelmeier, John J. Cox, Mark Pietanza, Doris O. "Peggy" Bailey.

Board members absent: Paul DeVecchio (Excused absence)

Board Counsel: Diane Guillemette

Department Staff: Tim Vaccaro, Stacey Merchant, Andrew Janecek, Jeff Kelly, Adrienne Rodgers, Valeria Singleton

Major Issues/Actions

- The department hosted a Continuing Education (CE) Provider Workshop. The CE Committee Chair, Executive Director, Board Counsel, and Bureau of Education and Testing staff participated. There were approximately 99 providers in attendance, and the workshop was well received.
- The CE committee expressed concern regarding companies that solicit exam candidates claiming to offer answers to the Florida contractor's examination. The committee requested that the Executive Director inquire as to whether the department could remove the download file of candidate names and contact information from its website to curtail such activity. The committee also directed the Executive Director to explore the possibility of referring the issue to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Legislation/Rule Promulgation

- The board voted to amend Rule 61G4-18.004, F.A.C., to expand the grounds for denying CE courses to include courses that constitute "brand-specific" sales presentations. The CE Committee has expressed concern that certain proposed CE courses are actually designed to sell brand-specific products and, as such, do not have educational merit.
- The board voted to notice promulgation of rulemaking to develop voluntary specialty licensure for individuals who perform specialty services in the swimming pool industry. Categories would include Swimming Pool Structural Specialty Contractor, Swimming Pool Trim, Deck and Piping Specialty Contractor, and Swimming Pool Specialty Finish Contractor. Representatives of the United Pool and Spa Association and the Florida Pool and Spa Association discussed possible changes to expand the number of specialty categories and will be presenting suggested rule revisions during the May Rules Committee meeting.
- The board voted to amend Rule 61G4-18.001, F.A.C., to include one hour of building code advanced module coursework, as required by s. 489.115, F.S., and to specify examples of subject matter areas for workplace safety, workers' compensation, business practices, and general course topics. The board voted to include marketing as an acceptable trade-related subject under general course hours. The board also voted to make the amendments effective September 1, 2005, based upon its concern that registered contractors might not be able to complete the one-hour advanced module requirement prior to their August 31, 2005, renewal deadline.
- The Rules Committee discussed possible methods for verification that CE provider Internet courses guarantee hour-for-hour education and credit. Industry representatives suggested that the board examine the possibility of requiring that courses be reviewed by accreditation associations, such as the International Distance Education Certification Center (IDEC). Associations such as IDEC review courses to verify course reliability in areas such as delivery methods. Industry representatives offered to provide additional information for the board's consideration.

Action Required

- Tim Vaccaro, Executive Director, will coordinate with department staff and Board Counsel to address issues raised by the CE and Rules Committees regarding solicitation of exam candidates and research into CE accreditation associations.