



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 582

LCO No. 2406

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) As used in this
2 section: (1) "Licensee" means a funeral director or embalmer licensed
3 pursuant to chapter 385 of the general statutes; and (2) "department"
4 means the Department of Public Health.

5 (b) Each licensee shall complete a minimum of six hours of
6 continuing education during each twelve-month period that
7 commences on the date of renewal of the licensee's license, as provided
8 in section 19a-88 of the general statutes, as amended. The continuing
9 education shall be in areas related to the licensee's practice, including,
10 but not limited to, bereavement care, business management and
11 administration, religious customs and traditions related to funerals,
12 cremation services, cemetery services, natural sciences, preneed
13 services, restorative arts and embalming, federal and state laws
14 governing funeral services, counseling, funeral service merchandising,
15 sanitation and infection control, organ donation or hospice care. The
16 continuing education shall consist of courses offered or approved by

17 the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, educational
18 offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care
19 institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of
20 higher education.

21 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the
22 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education
23 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate
24 for a minimum of three years following the date of renewal of the
25 licensee's license that immediately precedes the date of completion of
26 the course or other offering. Upon request by the department, the
27 licensee shall submit the certificate to the department.

28 (d) A licensee who fails to comply with the provisions of this section
29 shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-227 of the
30 general statutes.

31 (e) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to a
32 licensee (1) during the year immediately following the date on which
33 the licensee's license is renewed for the first time; (2) whose license is
34 due to expire during the twelve months following the effective date of
35 this section, until the next renewal date; or (3) who has been
36 continuously licensed since January 1, 1963. The department may, for
37 a licensee who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver of the
38 continuing education requirements for a specific period of time or may
39 grant the licensee an extension of time in which to fulfill the
40 requirements.

41 Sec. 2. Section 20-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

43 No person shall engage in the practice of natureopathy in this state
44 until he has obtained a license. No person shall receive a license until
45 he has passed an examination prescribed by the department with the
46 advice and consent of the board. On and after January 1, 2003, no
47 person shall receive a license unless such person has passed Part I,

48 Basic Science Examinations, and Part II, Clinical Science Examinations,
49 of the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations. The
50 examination shall be administered by the Department of Public Health
51 under the supervision of the board. Passing scores shall be established
52 by the department with the consent of the board. Any person desiring
53 to practice natureopathy shall make application to the department,
54 upon such form as it adopts. Applications shall be in writing upon
55 blanks furnished by said department, setting forth such facts
56 concerning the applicant as said department requires and shall be
57 signed by the applicant. Each applicant shall present to said
58 department satisfactory evidence that he graduated from an approved
59 high school, that he has completed a course of study of an academic
60 year consisting of not less than thirty-two weeks' duration, or, if he
61 begins the study of natureopathy after September 1, 1963, not less than
62 sixty-four weeks' duration, in a college or scientific school approved by
63 the board with the consent of the Commissioner of Public Health or
64 possessed educational qualifications equivalent to those required for
65 graduation from such school before beginning the study of
66 natureopathy and that he is a graduate of a legally chartered, reputable
67 school or college of natureopathy, approved by said board with the
68 consent of the Commissioner of Public Health. Said department shall
69 issue a license to each applicant who passes the examination and who
70 has met all other requirements of this chapter and any regulations
71 adopted hereunder. There shall be paid to the department by such
72 applicant a fee of four hundred fifty dollars. Any person who has
73 passed the prescribed examination shall receive from said department
74 a license, which license shall include a statement that the person
75 named therein is qualified to practice natureopathy. The secretary of
76 said board shall file annually with the Department of Public Health a
77 list of natureopathic colleges or institutions recognized by said board
78 as legal and reputable.

79 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) Each alcohol and drug
80 counselor licensed or certified pursuant to chapter 376b of the general
81 statutes shall complete a minimum of ____ hours of continuing

82 education each registration period. For purposes of this section,
83 registration period means the one-year period for which a license or
84 certificate has been renewed in accordance with section 19a-88 of the
85 general statutes, as amended, and is current and valid. The continuing
86 education shall be in areas related to the individual's practice.
87 Qualifying continuing education activities are courses offered or
88 approved by ____, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or
89 other licensed health care institutions or courses offered by a
90 regionally accredited academic institution.

91 (b) Each licensee or certificate holder shall obtain a certificate of
92 completion from the provider of continuing education activities for all
93 continuing education hours successfully completed. Each licensee or
94 certificate holder shall maintain such written documentation for a
95 minimum of three years following the license renewal date for which
96 the activity satisfies continuing education requirements. Certificates of
97 completion shall be submitted by the licensee or certificate holder to
98 the Department of Public Health upon the department's request. A
99 licensee or certificate holder who fails to comply with the continuing
100 education requirements may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant
101 to subsection (r) of section 20-74s or section 19a-17 of the general
102 statutes.

103 (c) The continuing education requirements shall be waived for
104 licensees and certificate holders applying for licensure or certification
105 renewal for the first time. An individual whose license or certificate is
106 due to expire on or before October 1, 2003, shall be exempt from
107 continuing education requirements until such licensee's or certificate
108 holder's next registration period. The Department of Public Health
109 may, in individual cases involving a medical disability or illness, grant
110 time-limited waivers of the continuing education requirements or
111 extensions of time in which to fulfill same.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2002

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To amend certain licensure statutes of the Department of Public Health.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]