A bill to be entitled

An act relating to real estate appraisers; amending s. 475.617, F.S.; revising terminology applicable to education requirements for registered trainee appraisers, certified residential appraisers, and certified general appraisers; authorizing qualifying education courses completed by applicants for registration as a trainee or certification as a residential appraiser or general appraiser to be completed through Internet-based instruction; providing requirements for the Florida Real Estate Appraisal Board's approval of Internet-based courses; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 475.617, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

475.617 Education and experience requirements.-

(1) To be registered as a trainee appraiser, an applicant must present evidence satisfactory to the board that she or he has successfully completed at least 100 hours of approved qualifying education academic courses in subjects related to real estate appraisal, which must include coverage of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, or its equivalent, as established by rule of the board, from a nationally recognized or state-recognized appraisal organization, career center, accredited community college,

college, or university, state or federal agency or commission, or proprietary real estate school that holds a permit pursuant to s. 475.451. The board may increase the required number of hours to not more than 125 hours. All qualifying education courses may be completed through in-person classroom instruction or Internet-based instruction. A classroom hour is defined as 50 minutes out of each 60-minute segment. The board may determine that an Internet-based course meets the classroom hour requirement if the course is approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center for the course design and delivery method and by the Appraiser Qualifications Board Course Approval Program. Past courses may be approved on an hour-for-hour basis.

- applicant must present satisfactory evidence to the board that she or he has met the minimum education and experience requirements prescribed by rule of the board. The board shall prescribe by rule education and experience requirements that meet or exceed the following real property appraiser qualification criteria adopted on February 20, 2004, by the Appraisal Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation:
- (a) Has at least 2,500 hours of experience obtained over a 24-month period in real property appraisal as defined by rule.
- (b) Has successfully completed at least 200 classroom hours, inclusive of examination, of approved <u>qualifying</u>

 <u>education</u> <u>academic</u> courses in subjects related to real estate appraisal, which must include a 15-hour National Uniform

 Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice course, or its

equivalent, as established by rule of the board, from a nationally recognized or state-recognized appraisal organization, career center, accredited community college, college, or university, state or federal agency or commission, or proprietary real estate school that holds a permit pursuant to s. 475.451. All qualifying education courses may be completed through in-person classroom instruction or Internet-based instruction. A classroom hour is defined as 50 minutes out of each 60-minute segment. The board may determine that an Internet-based course meets the classroom hour requirement if the course is approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center for the course design and delivery method and by the Appraiser Qualifications Board Course Approval Program. Past courses may be approved by the board and substituted on an hour-for-hour basis.

- (3) To be certified as a general appraiser, an applicant must present evidence satisfactory to the board that she or he has met the minimum education and experience requirements prescribed by rule of the board. The board shall prescribe education and experience requirements that meet or exceed the following real property appraiser qualification criteria adopted on February 20, 2004, by the Appraisal Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation:
- (a) Has at least 3,000 hours of experience obtained over a 30-month period in real property appraisal as defined by rule.
- (b) Has successfully completed at least 300 classroom hours, inclusive of examination, of approved <u>qualifying</u>

 <u>education</u> <u>academic</u> courses in subjects related to real estate

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appraisal, which must include a 15-hour National Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice course, or its equivalent, as established by rule of the board, from a nationally recognized or state-recognized appraisal organization, career center, accredited community college, college, or university, state or federal agency or commission, or proprietary real estate school that holds a permit pursuant to s. 475.451. All qualifying education courses may be completed through in-person classroom instruction or Internet-based instruction. A classroom hour is defined as 50 minutes out of each 60-minute segment. The board may determine that an Internet-based course meets the classroom hour requirement if the course is approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center for the course design and delivery method and by the Appraiser Qualifications Board Course Approval Program. Past courses may be approved by the board and substituted on an hour-for-hour basis.

- (4) Each applicant must furnish, under oath, a detailed statement of the experience for each year of experience she or he claims. Upon request, the applicant shall furnish to the board, for its examination, copies of appraisal reports or file memoranda to support the claim for experience. Any appraisal report or file memoranda used to support a claim for experience must be maintained by the applicant for no less than 5 years after the date of certification.
- (5) The board may implement the provisions of this section by rule.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.