A bill to be entitled
An act relating to land surveyors and mappers;
amending ss. 472.0101 and 472.013, F.S.; deleting
certain education requirements for an applicant to
take the licensure examination to practice as a
surveyor or mapper or to be qualified as a surveyor or
mapper intern; deleting provisions relating to
rulemaking; amending s. 472.015, F.S.; revising
licensure by endorsement requirements; amending s.
472.018, F.S.; revising the required continuing
education hours for licensed surveyors or mappers;
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 472.0101, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

472.0101  Foreign-trained professionals; special
examination and license provisions.—

(1) When not otherwise provided by law, the department
shall by rule provide procedures under which exiled
professionals may be examined under this chapter. A person is
eligible for the examination if the exiled professional:

(a) Immigrated to the United States after leaving the
person's home country because of political reasons, provided the
country is located in the Western Hemisphere and does not have
diplomatic relations with the United States.†

(b) Applies to the department and submits a fee.†

(c) Was a resident of this state immediately preceding the
person's application.†

(d) Demonstrates to the department, through submission of
documentation verified by the applicant's respective
professional association in exile, that the applicant was
graduated with an appropriate professional or occupational
degree from a college or university. However,
The department may not require receipt of any documentation from
the Republic of Cuba as a condition of eligibility under this
section.†

(d)(e) Lawfully practiced the profession for at least 3
years.†

(e)(f) Prior to 1980, successfully completed an approved
course of study pursuant to chapters 74-105 and 75-177, Laws of
Florida.† and

(f)(g) Presents a certificate demonstrating the successful
completion of a continuing education program which offers a
course of study that will prepare the applicant for the
examination offered under subsection (2). The department shall
develop rules for the approval of such programs for the board.

Section 2. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
472.013, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
472.013 Examinations, prerequisites.—

(2) An applicant shall be entitled to take the licensure examination to practice in this state as a surveyor and mapper if the applicant is of good moral character and has satisfied one of the following requirements:

(a) The applicant has received a bachelor's degree, its equivalent, or higher in surveying and mapping or a similarly titled program, including, but not limited to, geomatics, geomatics engineering, and land surveying, from a college or university recognized by the board and has a specific experience record of 4 or more years as a subordinate to a professional surveyor and mapper in the active practice of surveying and mapping, which experience is of a nature indicating that the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed. Work experience acquired as a part of the education requirement may not be construed as experience in responsible charge.

(b) The applicant has received a bachelor's degree, its equivalent, or higher in a course of study, other than in surveying and mapping, at an accredited college or university and has a specific experience record of 6 or more years as a subordinate to a registered surveyor and mapper in the active practice of surveying and mapping, 5 years of which shall be of a nature indicating that the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed.
work performed. The applicant must have completed a minimum of 25 semester hours from a college or university approved by the board in surveying and mapping subjects or in any combination of courses in civil engineering, surveying, mapping, mathematics, photogrammetry, forestry, or land law and the physical sciences. Any of the required 25 semester hours of study completed not as a part of the bachelor's degree, its equivalent, or higher may be approved at the discretion of the board. Work experience acquired as a part of the education requirement may not be construed as experience in responsible charge.

(3) A person shall be entitled to take an examination for the purpose of determining whether he or she is qualified as a surveyor and mapper intern if:

(a) the person is in good standing in, or is a graduate of, a bachelor degree program, its equivalent or higher, at an accredited college or university and has obtained a minimum of 25 semester hours in surveying, mapping, mathematics, photogrammetry, forestry, civil engineering, or land law and the physical sciences, or any combination thereof; or

(b) The person has obtained, from an accredited college or university, a minimum of 15 semester hours in surveying, mapping, mathematics, photogrammetry, forestry, civil engineering, or land law and the physical sciences, or any combination thereof, and has a specific surveying and mapping experience record of 2 or more years as a subordinate to a
registered surveyor and mapper.

This subsection may not be construed as a substitute for the degree requirement to take the exams for licensure as outlined in subsection (2).

(4) The board shall adopt rules providing for the review and approval of schools and colleges and the courses of study in surveying and mapping in such schools and colleges. The rules shall be based on the educational requirements for surveying and mapping as defined in s. 472.005. The board may adopt rules providing for the acceptance of the approval and accreditation of schools and courses of study by a nationally accepted accreditation organization.

Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 472.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

472.015 Licensure.—

(5)(a) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by endorsement an applicant who, at the time of application:

1. Holds a valid license to practice surveying and mapping issued before July 1, 1999, by another state or territory of the United States; has passed a national, regional, state, or territorial licensing examination that is substantially equivalent to the examination required by s. 472.013; and has a specific experience record of at least 8 years as a subordinate to a registered surveyor and mapper in the active practice of
surveying and mapping, 6 years of which must be of a nature indicating that the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed; or

2. Holds a valid license to practice surveying and mapping issued by another state or territory of the United States if the criteria for issuance of the license were substantially the same as the licensure criteria that existed in Florida at the time the license was issued.

(b) All applicants for licensure by endorsement must pass the Florida law and rules portion of the examination prior to licensure.

Section 4. Section 472.018, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

472.018 Continuing education.—The department may not renew a license until the licensee submits proof satisfactory to the board that during the 2 years before her or his application for renewal the licensee has completed at least 24 hours of continuing education. The board may provide by rule for continuing education hours carryover for each renewal cycle not to exceed 12 hours.

(1) The board shall adopt rules to establish the criteria for continuing education providers. The rules may provide that up to a maximum of 25 percent of the required continuing education hours may be fulfilled by the performance of pro bono
services to the indigent or to underserved populations or in areas of critical need within the state where the licensee practices. The board must require that any pro bono services be approved in advance in order to receive credit for continuing education under this section. The board shall use the standard recognized by the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines produced by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in determining indigency. The board may adopt rules that may provide that a part of the continuing education hours may be fulfilled by performing research in critical need areas or for training leading to advanced professional certification. The board may adopt rules to define underserved and critical need areas. The department shall adopt rules for the administration of continuing education requirements adopted by the board.

(2) The board may provide by rule the method of delivery and criteria that may be used to satisfy continuing education requirements.

(3) The board may prorate the required continuing education hours in the following circumstances:

(a) For new licensees:

1. By requiring half of the required continuing education hours for any applicant who becomes licensed with more than half the renewal period remaining and no continuing education for any applicant who becomes licensed with half or less than half of the renewal period remaining; or
2. Requiring no continuing education hours until the first full renewal cycle of the licensee.

(b) When the number of hours required is increased by law or the board.

(4) Upon the request of a licensee, the provider must also furnish to the department information regarding courses completed by the licensee, in an electronic format required by rule of the department.

(5) Each continuing education provider shall retain all records relating to a licensee's completion of continuing education courses for at least 4 years after completion of a course.

(6) A continuing education provider may not be approved, and the approval may not be renewed, unless the provider agrees in writing to provide such cooperation under this section as required by the department.

(7) For the purpose of determining which persons or entities must meet the reporting, recordkeeping, and access provisions of this section, the board by rule shall adopt a definition of the term "continuing education provider" applicable to the profession's continuing education requirements. The intent of the rule is to ensure that all records and information necessary to carry out the requirements of this section are maintained and transmitted accordingly and to minimize disputes as to what person or entity is responsible...
for maintaining and reporting such records and information.

(8) The board shall approve the providers of continuing education. The approval of continuing education providers must be for a specified period of time, not to exceed 4 years. An approval that does not include such a time limitation may remain in effect under this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter.

(9) The department may fine, suspend, or revoke approval of any continuing education provider that fails to comply with its duties under this section. The fine may not exceed $500 per violation. Investigations and prosecutions of a provider's failure to comply with its duties under this section shall be conducted pursuant to s. 472.033.

(10) The board shall issue an order requiring a person or entity to cease and desist from offering any continuing education programs for licensees, and fining, suspending, or revoking any approval of the provider previously granted by the board if the board determines that the person or entity failed to provide appropriate continuing education services. The fine may not exceed $500 per violation. Investigations and prosecutions of a provider's failure to comply with its duties under this section shall be conducted under s. 472.033.

(11) The board may establish, by rule, a fee not to exceed $250 for anyone seeking approval to provide continuing education courses and may establish, by rule, a biennial fee not to exceed
$250 for the renewal of providership of such courses. Such postlicensure education courses are subject to the reporting, monitoring, and compliance provisions of this section.

(12) The department and the board may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section.

(13) Each continuing education provider shall provide to the department, in an electronic format determined by the department, information regarding the continuing education status of licensees which the department determines is necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter. After a licensee completes a course, the information must be submitted electronically by the continuing education provider to the department within 30 calendar days after completion. However, beginning on the 30th day before the renewal deadline or before the renewal date, whichever occurs sooner, the continuing education provider shall electronically report such information to the department within 10 business days after completion.

(14) The department shall establish a system to monitor licensee compliance with continuing education requirements and to determine the continuing education status of each licensee. As used in this subsection, the term "monitor" means the act of determining, for each licensee, whether the licensee is in full compliance with applicable continuing education requirements as of the date of the licensee's application for license renewal.

(15) The department may refuse to renew a license until
the licensee has satisfied all applicable continuing education requirements. This subsection does not preclude the department or board from imposing additional penalties pursuant to this chapter or rules adopted pursuant this chapter.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.