

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 2130

SPONSOR: Senator Lawson

SUBJECT: Registered Contractors

DATE: March 1, 2002 REVISED: 03/05/02 \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Vaccaro</u>	<u>Caldwell</u>	<u>RI</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Rhea</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## I. Summary:

Senate Bill 2130 revises the examination requirement for registered construction contractors who wish to apply for statewide certification under ch. 489, F.S. The bill provides that the applicant may pass either a written or oral examination that is substantially similar to the examination required for licensure as a certified contractor.

This bill substantially amends section 489.118 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

Construction contractors are regulated by the Construction Industry Licensing Board (board) under part I of ch. 489, F.S. Construction contractors encompass general, building, and residential contractors, as well as several categories of subcontractors, including plumbing, air-conditioning, mechanical, roofing, sheet metal, pool/spa, underground utility, solar, and pollutant storage system contractors.

Each individual who practices contracting in Florida must be certified or registered with the appropriate licensing board. The department certifies contractors who meet state experience and examination requirements. Certified contractors may contract anywhere in the state without meeting additional local requirements. The department registers contractors who meet local licensing requirements. Registered contractors may contract only in the local jurisdiction issuing the license.

Section 489.118, F.S., provides that registered contractors may apply for statewide certification upon meeting certain criteria. In addition to holding a valid registered license, the applicant must pass a written examination that the board finds to be substantially similar to the examination

required for certification. Examples of acceptable substitutes include those examinations produced by the National Assessment Institute, Block and Associates, NAI/Block, Experior Assessments, Professional Testing, Inc., and Assessment Systems, Inc. Additionally, applicants must: have at least five years of experience as a contractor in the category for which certification is sought, or as an inspector or building administrator with oversight over that category; have not had his or her license, revoked or suspended within the previous five years, or have been assessed a fine by the board in excess of \$500 in the previous five years; and comply with insurance and financial requirements set forth in s. 489.115, F.S. The provisions of s. 489.118, F.S., only apply for applications filed by November 1, 2004. *See* ch. 2000-372, L.O.F.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill provides that a registered contractor applying for statewide certification under ch. 489, F.S., may pass either a written or oral examination that the board finds to be substantially similar to the examination required for certification. The amendment does not extend the application window beyond November 1, 2004.

The bill provides that the act takes effect July 1, 2002.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

Additional costs may be associated with providing for an oral examination.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

#1 by Governmental Oversight & Productivity:

Requires that a person who seeks to take an oral examination must have a disability.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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