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CS/HB 4035

2026 Legislature

1  
2 An act relating to Palm Beach County; amending chapter  
3 67-1876, Laws of Florida, as amended; revising  
4 requirements for the examinations administered by the  
5 Palm Beach County Construction Industry Licensing  
6 Board for certificates of competency; revising the  
7 Board's applicant review process; providing an  
8 effective date.  
9

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
11

12 Section 1. Section 5 of chapter 67-1876, Laws of Florida,  
13 as amended, is amended to read:

14 Section 5. Certification.—

15 (A) To obtain a certificate of competency an applicant  
16 shall submit an application in writing to the Board containing  
17 the statement that the applicant desires the issuance of a  
18 certificate and the class of certificate desired on a form  
19 containing the information prescribed by the Board which shall  
20 be accompanied by the fee fixed by the Board. All applicants  
21 must be of good moral character and 18 years of age or older.

22 (B) The application shall contain the following:

23 (1) Evidence in the form of affidavits from former  
24 employers, building officials, school officials, or other  
25 persons to verify the required experience and education.

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26 (2) A credit report on the applicant from a nationally  
 27 recognized credit agency.

28 (3) Any other pertinent information prescribed by the  
 29 Board by rule or regulation.

30 (C) (1) Examinations shall be administered ~~held~~ at times  
 31 and locations ~~places~~ within the county as the Board determines,  
 32 ~~but there shall be offered at least one examination every 3~~  
 33 ~~months.~~ Each applicant must complete an objective written  
 34 examination that evaluates the applicant's qualifications for  
 35 certification in the category for which the applicant applies.  
 36 The examination must be tailored to the scope of work associated  
 37 with the requested certificate and must assess knowledge of  
 38 contracting and construction principles relevant to that  
 39 category. At the Board's discretion, an applicant for a  
 40 specialty contractor and journeyman certificate may fulfill the  
 41 examination requirement through an oral examination. An  
 42 applicant must achieve a passing grade on all required exams  
 43 prior to being eligible for Board certification ~~A maximum of~~  
 44 ~~four examinations in a category may be taken in a 12-month~~  
 45 ~~period, but examinations may not be rescheduled until 60 days~~  
 46 ~~have elapsed. Each applicant shall take an objective written~~  
 47 ~~examination about his fitness for a certificate in the category~~  
 48 ~~for which application is made. There shall be a type of~~  
 49 ~~examination for each of the categories which shall apply to the~~  
 50 ~~type of work covered by the certificate applied for. The~~

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51 ~~examination shall cover knowledge of basic principles of~~  
52 ~~contracting and construction applicable to the category for~~  
53 ~~which a certificate is requested. The Board may authorize~~  
54 ~~applicants for specialty contractors and journeymen certificates~~  
55 ~~to complete the examination requirements by taking and passing~~  
56 ~~an oral examination.~~

57 (2) A passing grade on the examination is 75 percent.

58 (D) Upon Following receipt of the required fee and a  
59 complete application, the Board shall review ~~investigate~~ the  
60 applicant's qualifications, including the applicant's financial  
61 responsibility, credit history ~~reputation~~, education,  
62 examination, experience, and business reputation, ~~and the~~  
63 ~~business reputation of any business agency on behalf of which~~  
64 ~~the applicant proposes to engage in contracting. The review must~~  
65 also include any business entity that the applicant represents  
66 in contracting activities. If the applicant achieves a passing  
67 score on the examination and satisfies all other requirements,  
68 the Board shall confirm to the applicant the Board's readiness  
69 ~~If the applicant is approved by the Board the applicant shall be~~  
70 ~~notified to appear for an examination. Within 30 days from the~~  
71 ~~date of the examination, the Board shall inform the applicant in~~  
72 ~~writing whether or not he has qualified, and, if the applicant~~  
73 ~~has qualified, that it is ready to issue the appropriate a~~  
74 ~~certificate in the category for which application was made,~~  
75 subject to the applicant's compliance with any additional

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76 | provisions outlined in the requirements of subsection (F) ~~of~~  
77 | ~~this section.~~

78 | (E) Applicants who contract in violation of this act  
79 | before certification by the Board or passing the examination may  
80 | be disqualified upon a majority vote of the Board. Applicants  
81 | violating examination and examination review rules such as  
82 | unauthorized removal of examinations or questions from exam  
83 | room, or cheating during examinations also may be disqualified  
84 | by a majority vote of the Board.

85 | (F) As a prerequisite to issuance of a certificate, the  
86 | Board shall require the applicant to submit satisfactory  
87 | evidence that he has obtained public liability insurance and a  
88 | license bond in amounts to be determined by the Board. The  
89 | certificate shall then be issued forthwith, but this subsection  
90 | does not apply to the issuance or renewal of inactive  
91 | certificates.

92 | (G) If an applicant for an original certificate, after  
93 | having been notified to do so, does not appear for examination  
94 | within 60 days from the date of filing his application, the fee  
95 | paid by him shall be credited to the Board as an earned fee. New  
96 | application for a certificate shall be accompanied by another  
97 | application fee fixed by the Board.

98 | (H) When a certificate holder desires to engage in  
99 | contracting in any area of the county, within or without a  
100 | municipality, as a prerequisite therefore, he shall only be

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101 required to exhibit to the local building official, tax  
102 collector, or other person in charge of the issuance of licenses  
103 and building permits in the area, evidence of holding a current  
104 certificate accompanied by the fee for the occupational license  
105 and building permit required of other persons.

106 (I) A certified journeyman shall only be required to hold  
107 a current certificate of competency in order to engage in his  
108 trade as a journeyman in any municipality or unincorporated area  
109 within Palm Beach County.

110 (J) The certificate shall not be transferable.

111 (K) The Board may adopt rules prescribing procedures for  
112 the certification of contractors and journeymen by reciprocal  
113 agreement.

114 (L) Upon the effective date of this act, any person  
115 licensed or otherwise permitted to engage in business as a  
116 contractor by reciprocal agreements in any municipality or any  
117 unincorporated area of Palm Beach County may continue to engage  
118 in business as a contractor in the particular municipality or  
119 municipalities or unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County in  
120 which he is presently engaged in business without taking the  
121 examination under this act, but he shall not be permitted to  
122 engage in business as a contractor in other areas of Palm Beach  
123 County unless he first obtains a certificate from the Board or  
124 satisfies the requirements of such municipality or  
125 unincorporated area.

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126 |           Section 2.   This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. |