

§ 143-151.22. North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technician; certification program; professional development requirements; renewal of certificates; fees; exam waivers.

(a) State Building Code Permit Technician Certification Program. – The Board shall develop a North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technician certification program and North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technician Certificate. To obtain a certificate, a person must pass an examination, as prescribed by the Board, that is based on the North Carolina State Building Code, administrative procedures applicable to permit administration, and relevant topics in support of Code-enforcement officials and local inspection departments. The Board may issue a certificate to each person who successfully completes the examination. The certificate shall bear the signatures of the chairman and secretary of the Board.

(b) Professional Development Standards for Renewal. – The Board may establish professional development requirements for North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technicians as a condition of the renewal of their certificates. The purpose of these professional development requirements is to assist in maintaining professional competence. A certificate holder subject to this section shall present evidence to the Board at each certificate renewal after initial certification that during the 12 months before the certificate expiration date, the certificate holder has completed the required number of credit hours in courses approved by the Board. Annual continuing education hour requirements shall be determined by the Board. The Board may, for good cause shown, grant extensions of time to certificate holders to comply with these requirements.

(c) Renewal Application. – A North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technician Certificate must be renewed annually on or before the first day of July.

(d) Fee Authorization. – The Board shall establish a schedule of fees to be paid by each applicant for initial certification and renewal certification as a North Carolina State Building Code Permit Technician. A fee of not more than twenty dollars (\$20.00), as determined by the Board, must be paid by any applicant to the Board for the issuance of an initial certification. A fee of not more than ten dollars (\$10.00), as determined by the Board, must be paid by any applicant to the Board for the issuance of a renewal certification. The Board is authorized to charge an extra four dollar (\$4.00) late renewal fee for renewal applications made after the first day of July each year.

(e) Qualified Code-Enforcement Official Exam Waiver. – The Board shall, without requiring an examination, grant a certificate pursuant to this section to any person who, at the time of application, possesses a Building Inspector standard certificate issued by the Board and who is in good standing. The Board may assess a fee for a certificate issued pursuant to this subsection, to the extent authorized by subsection (d) of this section for an initial certification.

(f) Comity. – The Board may, without requiring an examination, grant a certificate pursuant to this section to any person who, at the time of application, is similarly certified as a permit technician in good standing by a similar board of another jurisdiction or certified as a permit technician in good standing by the International Code Council, where standards are acceptable to the Board. The certificate granted under this subsection shall expire after one year unless, within that time period, the holder completes a short course, as prescribed by the Board, based on the North Carolina State Building Code and administrative procedures described in subsection (a) of this section. The Board may assess a fee for a certificate issued pursuant to this subsection, to the extent authorized by subsection (d) of this section for an initial certification. (2024-49, s. 3.4(b).)