

SENATE, No. 3624

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator HOLLY T. SCHEPISI

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Waives requirement to attend in-person continuing education as a result of public health emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning in-person requirements for continuing
2 education, and supplementing P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-14 et seq.).
3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
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7 1. a. As used in this act:

8 “Renewal period” means the current annual, biennial, or any
9 other period for which a license, certificate of registration,
10 certification, or any other credential has been renewed.

11 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or
12 regulation to the contrary, if a public health emergency is declared
13 by the Governor pursuant to P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.),
14 any requirement that a certain number of continuing education
15 credits be completed in-person in order to renew a professional or
16 occupational license, certificate of registration, certification, or any
17 other credential shall be waived for the duration of the renewal
18 period in which the public health emergency was declared and an
19 individual may complete any continuing education requirements
20 through distance learning, which includes, but is not limited to,
21 Internet- or correspondence-based classes. The provisions of this
22 section shall apply to any license, certificate of registration,
23 certification, or any other credential issued by any entity designated
24 in section 2 of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-15), by any principal
25 department of the Executive Branch of State Government or any
26 entity within any department, or any other entity hereafter created
27 to license or otherwise regulate a profession or occupation.

28 c. The provisions of this section shall apply to any individual
29 reactivating or reinstating a New Jersey license, certificate of
30 registration, certification, or any other credential during a public
31 health emergency in New Jersey.
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33 2. The Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law
34 and Public Safety, or any other principal department of the
35 Executive Branch of State Government or other entity within any
36 department created to license or otherwise regulate a profession or
37 occupation shall, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure
38 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt any rules or
39 regulations as is deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of
40 this act.
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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill provides that any requirement to complete a certain
48 number of continuing education credits in-person in order to renew

1 a license, certificate of registration, certification, or any other
2 credential, is waived should the Governor declare a public health
3 emergency. The waiver is to last for the duration of the renewal
4 period during which a public health emergency has been declared.
5 “Renewal period” is defined by the bill as the current annual,
6 biennial, or any other period in which a license, certificate of
7 registration, certification, or any other credential has been renewed.
8 The bill provides that an individual whose in-person requirements
9 are waived may complete continuing education requirements
10 through distance learning, which includes, but is not limited to,
11 Internet- or correspondence-based classes. The bill also applies to
12 individuals seeking a reactivation or reinstatement of a license,
13 certificate of registration, certification, or other credential.
14 Numerous professions and occupations require individuals to earn a
15 certain number of continuing education credits in-person prior to
16 the renewal of a specific credential. This bill accounts for
17 difficulties an individual may face in meeting that requirement
18 since facilities providing continuing education may temporarily
19 close during a public health emergency.