

SENATE, No. 3741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for DCA to reestablish and administer certification program for recreation administrators and automatically reinstate administrator certifications issued under prior law.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the reestablishment of a certification program
2 for recreation administrators in the State and supplementing Title
3 13 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

9 a. P.L.1966, c.291 (C.13:1C-1 et seq.) established a
10 certification program for recreation administrators and recreation
11 supervisors in New Jersey. The program was administered by the
12 New Jersey Board of Recreation Examiners, was used as a
13 nationwide model for other states' recreation certification programs,
14 and remained in operation for many decades, until the enactment of
15 P.L.2013, c.253, which repealed numerous laws governing inactive
16 boards and commissions.

17 b. While P.L.2013, c.253 eliminated the New Jersey Board of
18 Recreation Examiners, it also indicated that the board's powers,
19 duties, and functions, including its authority to operate a recreation
20 certification program, were to be transferred to the Department of
21 Community Affairs. Due to a problem with implementation,
22 however, the certification program's regulations have been allowed
23 to lapse, and examinations for certification are no longer being
24 offered in the State.

25 c. Certified recreation administrators, when compared to their
26 noncertified peers, are better able to facilitate recreational programs
27 and services for municipal, county, or State government agencies,
28 youth centers, out-of-school care and activities providers, senior
29 and adult day care centers, and other similar organizations.

30 d. Certification also serves to protect individuals in the State
31 who receive recreation services, including some of New Jersey's
32 most vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and
33 individuals with special needs, by identifying those professionals
34 who meet high-quality care criteria.

35 e. The reestablishment of a State-level certification program
36 for recreation administrators is a reasonable and important means
37 by which the State can promote the emotional, social, physical, and
38 intellectual growth of the people of the State through recreation
39 services.

40 f. Based on the foregoing, it is both reasonable and necessary
41 for the State to reestablish a certification program for recreation
42 administrators and authorize all previously certified recreation
43 administrators and recreation supervisors to obtain new certification
44 under the reestablished certification program.

45
46 2. As used in this act:

47 "Certification program" means the recreation administrator
48 certification program reestablished pursuant to section 3 of this act.

1 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Community
2 Affairs.

3 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

4 “Previously certified recreation administrator” means a person
5 who was certified as a recreation administrator, pursuant to
6 P.L.1966, c.291 (C.13:1C-1 et seq.), and whose certification was in
7 active status on the effective date of P.L.2013, c.253.

8 “Previously certified recreation supervisor” means a person who
9 was certified as a recreation supervisor, pursuant to P.L.1966, c.291
10 (C.13:1C-1 et seq.), and whose certification was in active status on
11 the effective date of P.L.2013, c.253.

12 “Recreation administrator” means the executive head or assistant
13 to the executive head administering a major recreation program for
14 the State, a county or municipality, any agency thereof, or any
15 public institution.

16 “Recreation supervisor” means a person responsible for the
17 planning, organizing, and supervising of a part of a program
18 administered by a recreation administrator.

19

20 3. a. (1) No more than 180 days after the effective date of this
21 act, the Department of Community Affairs shall reestablish and
22 administer a program for the certification of recreation
23 administrators in New Jersey.

24 (2) The department shall issue a printed certificate to any person
25 who is certified, pursuant to this act, to serve as a recreation
26 administrator, including a person whose prior certification has been
27 automatically reinstated pursuant to subsection b. of this section.
28 Each certificate issued pursuant to this act, including a certificate
29 reinstated for a previously certified recreation administrator, shall
30 be valid for, and shall automatically expire after, a period of two
31 years following the date of issuance, unless renewed pursuant to
32 subsection d. of this section.

33 (3) No more than 30 days after the certification program is
34 reestablished under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the department
35 shall send written notice to each previously certified recreation
36 supervisor and each previously certified recreation administrator,
37 indicating that the person is eligible to apply for new certification,
38 as provided by subsection c. of this section or, if appropriate, is
39 eligible to apply for the automatic reinstatement of the person’s pre-
40 existing certification, as provided by subsection b. of this section.

41 b. The department shall automatically reinstate the certification
42 of a previously certified recreation administrator, provided that the
43 person submits to the department, in a form and manner prescribed
44 by the commissioner, a completed reinstatement request form and a
45 reinstatement fee of \$25, no more than 60 days after receipt of the
46 notice mailed pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection a. of this
47 section. A person who fails to submit a request for reinstatement
48 within the 60-day reinstatement grace period established by this

1 subsection shall be deemed to have a lapsed certification, shall no
2 longer be eligible for automatic reinstatement of the certification
3 and shall be required to comply with the procedures established in
4 subsection c. of this section in order to obtain new certification
5 under this act.

6 c. (1) Except as otherwise provided by subsection b. of this
7 section, any person who wishes to be certified as a recreation
8 administrator pursuant to this act shall submit to the department, in
9 a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, a completed
10 application form, an application fee of \$25, and documentation
11 sufficient to establish, to the commissioner's satisfaction, that the
12 applicant is either certified by the National Recreation and Park
13 Association as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)
14 or is otherwise qualified, by education or experience as determined
15 by the department, to serve as a recreation administrator in the
16 State.

17 (2) The certification program reestablished pursuant to this act
18 shall not provide for the separate certification of recreation
19 supervisors. However, any previously certified recreation
20 supervisor may apply for a new certification as a recreation
21 administrator, as provided by paragraph (1) of this subsection,
22 based on the person's prior supervisory experience.

23 d. A person seeking a biennial renewal of a certificate issued
24 pursuant to this act shall, prior to the expiration of the certificate,
25 submit to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the
26 commissioner, a completed renewal application form, a renewal fee
27 of \$25, and documentation verifying that the person has completed
28 at least twenty hours of continuing education credits in appropriate
29 subject areas, as required by the department, during the preceding
30 two-year certification period.

31 e. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall adopt rules
32 and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
33 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
34 implement the provisions of this act. The rules and regulations
35 shall include, but need not be limited to:

36 (1) standards that will be used by the department in determining
37 whether an applicant who is not certified as a CPRP, including, but
38 not limited to, a previously certified recreation supervisor, has
39 obtained the necessary education or experience, as provided by
40 paragraph (1) of subsection c. of this section, to serve and be
41 certified as a recreation administrator; and

42 (2) biennial continuing education requirements that are required
43 to be completed by a certified recreation administrator in order to
44 renew an existing certification pursuant to subsection d. of this
45 section.

46

47 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would require the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), no more than 180 days after the bill's effective date, to reestablish and administer a program for the certification of recreation administrators in New Jersey. A similar certification program for recreation administrators and recreation supervisors, established by P.L.1966, c.291 (C.13:1C-1 et seq.) and administered by the New Jersey Board of Recreation, was used as a nationwide model and remained in operation until the enactment of P.L.2013, c.253. P.L.2013, c.253 repealed numerous laws governing inactive boards and commissions and, while it eliminated the New Jersey Board of Recreation Examiners, it also indicated that the board's powers, duties, and functions, including its authority to operate a recreation certification program, were to be transferred to the DCA. However, due to a problem with implementation, the certification program's regulations have been allowed to lapse, and examinations for certification are no longer being offered in the State.

The reestablishment of a State-level certification program for recreation administrators is a reasonable and important means by which the State can promote the emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of the people of the State through recreation services. Certified recreation administrators are better able, when compared to their noncertified peers, to facilitate recreational programs and services for municipal, county, or State government agencies, youth centers, out-of-school care and activities providers, senior and adult day care centers, and other similar organizations. Certification also works to protect individuals in the State who receive recreation services, including some of New Jersey's most vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and individuals with special needs, by identifying those professionals who meet high-quality care criteria. For these reasons, the bill would provide for the reestablishment of a certification program for recreation administrators and authorize all previously certified recreation administrators and recreation supervisors to obtain a new certification under the bill's provisions.

No more than 30 days after the certification program is reestablished under the bill, the DCA will be required to send written notice to each previously certified recreation supervisor and each previously certified recreation administrator, indicating that the person is eligible to apply for new certification or, if appropriate, is eligible to apply for the automatic reinstatement of the person's pre-existing certification, as provided by the bill.

Under the bill, the department would be required to automatically reinstate a previously certified recreation administrator, provided that the person submits, to the department, a completed reinstatement request form and a reinstatement fee of \$25, no more than 60 days after receipt of the DCA's notice

1 regarding the right to reinstatement. Any person who fails to
2 submit a request for reinstatement within the 60-day reinstatement
3 grace period established by the bill will be deemed to have a lapsed
4 certification, will no longer be eligible for the automatic
5 reinstatement of the certification, as provided by the bill, and will
6 be required to comply with the procedures applicable to new
7 applicants.

8 A new applicant for certification as a recreation administrator
9 under the bill will be required to submit to the DCA: a completed
10 application form; an application fee of \$25; and documentation
11 sufficient to establish, to the commissioner's satisfaction, that the
12 applicant is either certified by the National Recreation and Park
13 Association as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP)
14 or is otherwise qualified, by education or experience as determined
15 by the department, to serve as a recreation administrator in the
16 State.

17 The reestablished certification program will not provide for the
18 separate certification of recreation supervisors. However, the bill
19 provides that any previously certified recreation supervisor will be
20 eligible to apply for a new certification as a recreation
21 administrator, based on the person's prior supervisory experience.

22 The bill would require the DCA to issue a new, printed
23 certificate to any person who is certified to serve as a recreation
24 administrator, including any person whose prior certification has
25 been automatically reinstated. Each certificate issued under the bill,
26 including a certificate reinstated for a previously certified recreation
27 administrator, will be valid for, and will automatically expire after,
28 a period of two years following its date of issuance, unless the
29 holder biennially renews the certification in accordance with the
30 procedure specified by the bill.

31 A person seeking the biennial renewal of certification as a
32 recreation administrator will be required, prior to the expiration of
33 the certificate, to submit to the department: a completed renewal
34 application form; a renewal fee of \$25; and documentation
35 verifying that the person has completed at least twenty hours of
36 continuing education credits in appropriate subject areas, as
37 required by the department, during the preceding two-year
38 certification period.

39 The bill requires the Commissioner of Community Affairs to
40 adopt rules and regulations to implement the bill's provisions. The
41 rules and regulations are to include, but need not be limited to:

42 1) standards to be used by the department in determining
43 whether an applicant who is not certified as a CPRP, including, but
44 not limited to, a previously certified recreation supervisor, has
45 otherwise obtained the necessary education or experience to serve
46 and be certified as a recreation administrator; and

S3741 GREENSTEIN

7

- 1 2) biennial continuing education requirements that are to be
- 2 satisfied by a certified recreation administrator for the purposes of
- 3 renewing an existing certification.