

The State Licensing Board for Residential and General Contractors met via conference call on February 22, 2007, at the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon, Georgia for the purpose of discussing business.

Members Present:

Roger Huggins, Board Chairperson
Philip Thayer, Vice Board Chairperson
Allen Richardson
Bob Barnard
Melissa Henderson
Steve Cash
Timothy Ansley
Dan Cash
David Cyr
Morgan Wheeler
Tommy Holder

Others Present:

Kyle Floyd, Executive Director
Don Munday, Acting Division Director
Robb Simms, Assistant Secretary of State
Alison Kessler, Board Secretary

Chairperson Huggins established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Discussion began with Robb Simms, Assistant Secretary of State, introducing himself to the Board members. Mr. Simms discussed issues surrounding examination exemption and the extension of the deadlines for licensure.

Vice Chairperson, Philip Thayer, responded to Mr. Simms by saying that he did not feel that an extension would be in the best interest of the public.

Executive Director, Kyle Floyd, reminded the Board that they voted to extent the effective date but not examination exemption at the February 14, 2007 Board meeting.

Board Chairperson, Roger Huggins, informed Vice Chairperson Thayer why the Board voted for the extension at the February 14, 2007 Board meeting, as Vice Chairperson Thayer was not in attendance.

Mr. Simms addressed the concerns he has heard from the public and from legislative members regarding the number of applications pending review by the Board.

Vice Chairperson Thayer responded to Mr. Simms by recommending the Secretary of State give Executive Director, Kyle Floyd, the ability to hire more Board staff to process the number of applications that are pending review.

Mr. Simms responded by saying that one concern regarding this suggestion is the budget and when the money would be available to hire more Board staff. Mr. Simms reiterated the concerns regarding the short term needs, which would be for the number of applications pending review by the Board to be lessened.

Executive Director, Kyle Floyd, gave the Board members a count of how many applications were pending review by Board members in each division and how many applications were pending entry into the licensing boards divisions' computer system.

Board Chairperson Huggins asked Mr. Simms if it would be possible to have the applications pending review sent to the metro Atlanta area for Board members to review.

Bob Barnard agreed with Mr. Huggins' statement by saying that it would be easier to review Residential Basic applications in the metro Atlanta area.

Mr. Simms responded to Chairperson Huggins' suggestion by saying that he knew there were logistical concerns with doing such and that he would discuss it with Executive Director Kyle Floyd and Acting Division Director Don Munday.

Mr. Floyd said that he would like to revisit the issue surrounding the registration of limited service contractors.

Chairperson Huggins said that he was informed that this type of registration would not be legal.

Mr. Floyd responded to Chairperson Huggins by saying that he was correct, it was not legal as the law existed, but Mr. Floyd was under the impression that the Board was trying to have that changed in the law to make it legal for the Board to have more authority to say definitively who and who does not need licensure as a contractor.

Morgan Wheeler said that he had received a similar response as Chairperson Huggins, that it would not be legal for registration of specialty contractors to occur, from lobbyist Mark Woodall.

Mr. Wheeler went onto suggest that perhaps a subcommittee would need to be formed to address the specialties exempt from licensure as a contractor.

A motion was made by Tommy Holder, seconded by Bob Barnard, and the Board voted unanimously to rescind the motion and the amendment made on February 14, 2007 that reads as follows:

A motion was made by Roger Huggins, seconded by Melissa Henderson, and the Board voted unanimously in support of a limited service category.

An amendment to the previous motion was made by Tommy Holder, seconded by Timothy Ansley, and the Board voted unanimously that the limited service category include the registration of limited service categories.

The Board discussed Senate Bill 115.

Mr. Simms said that Mark Woodall was taking the lead with this bill and if the Board had further directions and concerns than they could go directly to Mark Woodall. Mr. Simms asked the Board to keep the Secretary of State's office informed.

A motion was made by Roger Huggins, seconded by Morgan Wheeler, and the Board voted unanimously in support of Senate Bill 115 with the exception of Section 7, which the Board will further consider.

Vice Board Chairperson Thayer briefed the Board members who were not in attendance at the February 20, 2007 conference call what the discussions were surrounding the examination.

A motion was made by Philip Thayer, seconded by Allen Richardson, and the Board members present voted unanimously to proceed with Psychological Services, Inc.'s (PSI) recommended list of non-code texts used in examination development but to allow the examination review committee (ERC) the authority to make any necessary changes to such list as they see fit.

At 2:45 p.m., Melissa Henderson left the meeting. A quorum was still present.

The Board discussed new business items.

Kyle Floyd, Executive Director, reminded the Board that they needed to also provide some suggestions regarding where the examination review committee (ERC) should meet.

At 2:48 p.m., Tommy Holder left the meeting. A quorum was still present.

Morgan Wheeler responded to Mr. Floyd by saying the location for the ERC meeting needs to be as easily accessible to persons statewide as possible and he suggested Macon as a meeting location.

The Board asked Mr. Floyd when PSI needed the SMEs (subject matter experts) and the location venues for the ERC meetings.

Mr. Floyd responded that for the test to be available in May of this year, the proposed SMEs need to be provided to PSI by March 2, 2007 and the first ERC meeting must take place on or before March 26, 2007.

Vice Chairperson suggested Atlanta as an alternate venue if Macon does not work out.

With no other business for the Board to discuss, Chairperson Huggins adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Alison Kessler, Board Secretary

Minutes Reviewed and Edited by:

Kyle Floyd, Executive Director