NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEW RULE TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RULE 265-5-.03, "LICENSURE OF VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES."

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Registration for Geologists (hereinafter "Board") proposes a new rule, Rule 265-5-.03, "Licensure of Veterans and Military Spouses" (herein after "proposed rule").

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule, are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board's website at https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/26. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (844)-753-7825.

A public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., July 22, 2020. The hearing will be held via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule. Members of the public can call into the meeting via the following number: 646-558-8656.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Agency no later than close of business on July 17, 2020. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to La Trenda Tyler-Jones, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Registration for Geologists, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Written comments may be faxed to (866) 888-9718.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on March 11, 2020. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34, 43-19-6, and 43-19-14. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34, 43-19-6, and 43-19-14 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D).

The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Geology.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Registration for Geologists has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 265-5-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34, 43-19-6, and 43-19-14.

For further information, contact the Board office at (844)-753-7825.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 4th day of June, 2020.

La Trenda Tyler-Jones
La Trenda Tyler-Jones
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: _____

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS RULES

RULE 265-5-.03, "Licensure of Veterans and Military Spouses."

PURPOSE: The purpose of this rule is to define the requirements for expedited licensure of veterans, service members, transitioning service members, and military spouses.

THIS IS A NEW RULE.

Note: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.

Rule 265-5-.03 Licensure of veterans and military spouses.

(1) As used in this Rule:
   (a) "Military" means the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.
   (b) "Military spouse" means the spouse of a service member or transitioning service member.
   (c) "Geologist" means a person who is registered as a Geologist under the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.
   (d) "Service member" means an active or reserve member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.
   (e) "Transitioning service member" means a member of the military or active duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.

(2) Expedited applications. Effective July 1, 2017, military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for expedited processing of a license application by showing that the applicant is a military spouse or transitioning service member and that the applicant has paid the fee and meets all requirements for a license issued under Chapter 19 of Title 43.

(3) Licensure by reciprocity of service members, transitioning service members, and military spouses. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may qualify for a license by reciprocity where the applicant:

   (a) holds a license in good standing from another state for which the training, experience, and testing substantially meets or exceeds the requirements under Georgia law to obtain a license as a Geologist;
   (b) submits to the Board a verification of licensure from the appropriate licensing agency of another state showing that the applicant's active license is in good standing in that state;
   (c) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;

(d) submits a completed application for licensure by reciprocity on a form approved by the Board, pays the required fee, and requests a license by reciprocity.

(4) Education, training, and experience obtained while in the military. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may obtain credit for education and experience obtained while in the military that is required for licensure by Chapter 19 of Title 43 if he or she:

(a) submits documentation of graduation from a college or university with the major and/or hourly requirements that substantially meet or exceed the requirements under Georgia law for licensure as a Geologist;
(b) submits documentation showing years of experience doing Geology work performed under the supervision of a person whose credentials are acceptable to the Board which meet the requirements for licensure under Georgia law;
(c) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;
(d) submits proof of passing the examination required for licensure; and
(e) submits a completed application on a form approved by the Board for approval to take the licensure examination or for licensure and pays the required fee.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34, 43-19-6, and 43-19-14.

Rule 265-5-.03 Licensure of veterans and military spouses.

(1) As used in this Rule:

(f) "Military" means the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.

(g) "Military spouse" means the spouse of a service member or transitioning service member.

(h) "Geologist" means a person who is registered as a Geologist under the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(i) "Service member" means an active or reserve member of the United States armed forces, including the National Guard.

(j) "Transitioning service member" means a member of the military or active duty status or on separation leave who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.

(2) Expedited applications. Effective July 1, 2017, military spouses and transitioning service members may qualify for expedited processing of a license application by showing that the applicant is a military spouse or transitioning service member and that the applicant has paid the fee and meets all requirements for a license issued under Chapter 19 of Title 43.

(3) Licensure by reciprocity of service members, transitioning service members, and military spouses. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may qualify for a license by reciprocity where the applicant:

(e) holds a license in good standing from another state for which the training, experience, and testing substantially meets or exceeds the requirements under Georgia law to obtain a license as a Geologist;

(f) submits to the Board a verification of licensure from the appropriate licensing agency of another state showing that the applicant's active license is in good standing in that state;

(g) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;

(h) submits a completed application for licensure by reciprocity on a form approved by the Board, pays the required fee, and requests a license by reciprocity.

(4) Education, training, and experience obtained while in the military. A service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse may obtain credit for education and experience obtained while in the military that is required for licensure by Chapter 19 of Title 43 if he or she:

(f) submits documentation of graduation from a college or university with the major and/or hourly requirements that substantially meet or exceed the requirements under Georgia law for licensure as a Geologist;

(g) submits documentation showing years of experience doing Geology work performed under the supervision of a person whose credentials are acceptable to the Board which

meet the requirements for licensure under Georgia law;

(h) submits documentation satisfactory to the Board which verifies the applicant's status as a service member, transitioning service member, or military spouse;

(i) submits proof of passing the examination required for licensure; and

(j) submits a completed application on a form approved by the Board for approval to take the licensure examination or for licensure and pays the required fee.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-34, 43-19-6, and 43-19-14.