



On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued A Proclamation of Disaster Emergency providing for, among other things, Professional Licensure Relief as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19. Proclamation of Disaster Emergency [hereinafter *Proclamation*], §§ 3-15 (March 22, 2020),

<https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Public%20Health%20Proclamation%20-%202020.03.22.pdf>.

The Proclamation provides relief by, among other things, suspending various regulatory requirements relating to in-person continuing education, and licensure renewal deadlines. Pursuant to the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds directed individual licensing boards to “provide additional guidance to licensees regarding the effect of these suspensions.” *Id.*; *see also* Iowa Code § 29C.19 (“Any order issued or rule promulgated by a state agency during a declared disaster emergency and pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be exempt from being issued or promulgated as provided in chapter 17A.”). In light of and consistent with the foregoing, the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board (“Board”) hereby issues the following Guidance regarding the effect of these suspensions.

1. Pursuant to SECTION FIVE of the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended the regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and corresponding implementing regulations to the extent they impose requirements for in-person continuing education hours (i.e. professional development hours, *see* Iowa Administrative Code r. 193C—7.2) as a condition of professional license renewal or impose continuing education deadlines or requirements that are unable to be satisfied due to COVID-19. For licensees of the Board, at the present time this means:
  - For all licenses expiring on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the maximum number of independent study activity hours contained in Iowa Administrative Code rule 193C—7.4(3) is lifted. All required hours may be independent study activity hours.
  - For new-license renewals for licenses expiring on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the number of professional development hours required in Iowa Administrative Code rule 193C.7.5(6) is halved and set to 7.5 required hours.
  - For single-license renewals (i.e. individuals who have an engineer license or land surveying license only) for licenses expiring on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the number of professional development hours required in Iowa Administrative Code rule 193C—7.5(1) is halved and set to 15 required hours.
  - For dual-license renewals (i.e. individuals who are licensed as both an engineer and a land surveyor) for licenses expiring on December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the number of professional development hours required in Iowa

Administrative Code rule 193C—7.5(4) is halved and set to 10 hours in engineering and 10 hours in land surveying, for a total of 20 required hours.

- The maximum number of carry-over hours is unchanged for all renewals. *See* Iowa Admin Code r. 193C—7.5(1) & 7.5(4).
  - The minimum number of ethics hours is unchanged for all renewals. *See* Iowa Admin Code r. 193C—7.5(1).
2. Pursuant to SECTION SIX of the Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended the regulatory provisions of the Iowa Code and corresponding implementing regulations to the extent they set an expiration date or renewal requirement for a professional license that expires during the duration of the Proclamation. Currently, the Proclamation is set to expire on April 16, 2020. For licensees of the Board, at the present time this means:
- All licenses will expire biannually on December 31, 2020 or 2021, as normal. Should the proclamation be extended to December 2020, the Board will revisit this guidance.
3. To the extent any provision in this Guidance is inconsistent with a provision in the Proclamation, the provision of the Proclamation shall prevail.
4. Unless specifically included or addressed within this Guidance, all other regulatory requirements enforced or administered by the Board shall remain in full force and effect. In addition, other than the requirements specifically identified and addressed in this Guidance, nothing contained in this Guidance shall be construed as an exemption from any other portion of the Iowa Code or Iowa Administrative Code.
5. If additional allowances from Board rules outside of the scope of the rules or issues addressed by this Guidance are required due to circumstances relating to COVID-19, such allowances shall be handled as individual petitions for waiver or variance from Board rules pursuant to and in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code chapter 193—18.
6. The provisions of this Guidance shall be effective immediately, as of the date of signature, below, and shall extend coterminous with the Proclamation, including any extensions thereto, unless and solely to the extent otherwise stated herein or unless otherwise extended by subsequent order of the Board in a manner consistent with and permitted by the Proclamation.

**Issued this 13th day of April, 2020**

**Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board:**

\_\_\_\_\_, Board Administrator

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Date