

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1336

Short Title: Amend Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Gibson.

Referred to: Commerce, Small Business, and Entrepreneurship, if favorable, Finance.

April 9, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE LAWS REGULATING IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS TO
3 PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING CORPORATIONS, TO
4 PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES TO NONRESIDENTS, TO CLARIFY
5 THE FEE STRUCTURE, AND TO MAKE OTHER CONFORMING CHANGES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 SECTION 1. G.S. 89G-3 reads as rewritten:

8 "§ 89G-3. Exemptions.

9 The provisions in this Chapter shall not apply to:

- 10 (1) Any federal or State agency or any political subdivision performing
11 irrigation construction or contracting work on public property.
12 (2) Any property owner who performs irrigation construction or contracting
13 work on his or her own property.
14 (3) A landscape architect registered under Chapter 89A of the General Statutes.
15 (4) A professional engineer licensed under Chapter 89C of the General Statutes.
16 (5) Any irrigation construction or contracting work where the price of all
17 contracts for labor, material, and other items for a given jobsite is less than
18 two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
19 (6) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work for
20 temporary irrigation to establish vegetative cover for erosion control.
21 (7) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work to control
22 dust on commercial construction sites or mining operations.
23 (8) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work for use in
24 agricultural production, farming, or ranching, including land application of
25 animal wastewater.
26 (9) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work for use in
27 commercial sod production.
28 (10) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work for use in
29 the commercial production of horticultural crops, including nursery and
30 greenhouse operators.
31 (11) A ~~general~~ building contractor, residential contractor, or public utility
32 contractor licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes.
33 (12) A wastewater contractor certified under Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the
34 General Statutes who performs only the construction of or repair to a
35 wastewater dispersal system.
36 (13) A ~~public utility contractor licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the~~
37 ~~General Statutes.~~



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1 (14) A plumbing contractor licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 87 of the General
2 Statutes who performs only the following work: installation, repairs, or
3 maintenance of water mains, water taps, service lines, water meters, or
4 backflow prevention assemblies supplying water for irrigation systems; or
5 repairs to an irrigation system.

6 (15) Any person performing irrigation construction or contracting work for a golf
7 course.

8 (16) Any person maintaining or repairing an irrigation system owned by the
9 homeowners association of a planned community and located within the
10 planned community's common elements as defined in G.S. 47F-1-103."

11 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 89G-5(11) reads as rewritten:

12 "The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

13 ...

14 (11) To require licensees to file and maintain an adequate surety ~~bond~~bond or
15 letter of credit.

16"

17 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 89G of the General Statutes is amended by adding the
18 following new sections to read:

19 **"§ 89G-6.1. Corporations; partnerships; persons doing business under trade name.**

20 (a) The Board may issue a license in the name of a corporation if the corporation pays
21 the license fee required by G.S. 89G-10 and complies with the following:

22 (1) One or more officers or full-time employees, or both, empowered to act for
23 the corporation, are individuals licensed under this Chapter.

24 (2) Only the officers or employees described in subdivision (1) of this
25 subsection execute contracts for irrigation construction in the name of a
26 corporation and exercise direct supervision over the work performed
27 pursuant to the contract.

28 (b) The Board may issue a license in the name of a limited liability company if the
29 company pays the fee required by G.S. 89G-10 and complies with the following:

30 (1) One or more managers or executives, as defined in G.S. 57C-1-03, or
31 full-time employees, or a combination thereof, are individuals licensed under
32 this Chapter.

33 (2) Only the managers, executives, or employees described in subdivision (1) of
34 this subsection execute contracts for irrigation construction in the name of
35 the limited liability company and exercise direct supervision over the work
36 performed pursuant to the contract.

37 (c) The Board may issue a license in the name of a partnership if the partnership pays
38 the fee required by G.S. 89G-10 and complies with the following:

39 (1) One or more general partners or full-time employees empowered to act for
40 the partnership are individuals licensed under this Chapter.

41 (2) Only the partners or employees described in subdivision (1) of this
42 subsection execute contracts for irrigation construction in the name of the
43 partnership and exercise direct supervision over the work performed
44 pursuant to the contract.

45 (d) The Board may issue a license in an assumed or designated trade name if the owner
46 of the business pays the fee required by G.S. 89G-10 and complies with the following:

47 (1) The owner or one or more full-time employees empowered to act for the
48 owner is an individual licensed under this Chapter.

49 (2) Only the persons described in subdivision (1) of this subsection execute
50 contracts for irrigation construction in the assumed or designated trade name

1 of the business and exercise direct supervision over the work performed
2 pursuant to the contract.

3 (e) When the Board issues a license under this section, the Board shall indicate on the
4 license the name and license number of the individual licensee connected to the corporation,
5 partnership, or business conducted under an assumed or designated trade name.

6 (f) A person licensed pursuant to this section shall exercise direct supervision over a
7 contract for irrigation construction until the contract is completed.

8 (g) When a licensee executes a contract for irrigation construction in any capacity other
9 than as a sole proprietor contracting on the licensee's own behalf, the person on whose behalf
10 the licensee is executing the contract shall be licensed under this section.

11 (h) A corporation, partnership, or person doing business under an assumed or
12 designated trade name shall notify the Board in accordance with rules adopted by the Board if
13 an individual licensee who is indicated in the license issued under this section ceases to be an
14 officer, partner, owner, or employee of the corporation, partnership, or person doing business
15 under the assumed or designated trade name. If the corporation, partnership, or person no
16 longer has an officer, general partner, owner, or employee described in subdivisions (a)(1),
17 (b)(1), or (c)(1), the license issued under this section is automatically suspended, and the
18 corporation, partnership, or person shall cease practicing irrigation construction or contracting.

19 **"§ 89G-6.2. Licensing of nonresidents.**

20 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

21 (1) Delinquent income tax debt. – The amount of income tax due as stated in a
22 final notice of assessment issued to a taxpayer by the Secretary of Revenue
23 when the taxpayer no longer has the right to contest the amount.

24 (2) Foreign corporation. – A corporation as defined in G.S. 55-1-40.

25 (3) Foreign entity. – A foreign corporation, a foreign limited liability company,
26 or a foreign partnership.

27 (4) Foreign limited liability company. – A company as defined in
28 G.S. 57C-1-03.

29 (5) Foreign partnership. – One of the following that does not have a permanent
30 place of business in this State:

31 a. A foreign limited partnership as defined in G.S. 59-102.

32 b. A general partnership formed under the laws of a jurisdiction other
33 than this State.

34 (b) Licensing. – Except as provided in this section, the Board may issue a license to a
35 nonresident individual or a foreign entity that meets the requirements for licensure under this
36 Chapter.

37 (c) Certificate of Authority Required. – The Board shall not issue a license for a foreign
38 corporation unless the corporation has obtained a certificate of authority from the Secretary of
39 State pursuant to Article 15 of Chapter 55 of the General Statutes. The Board shall not issue a
40 license for a foreign limited liability company unless the company has obtained a certificate of
41 authority from the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 57C of the General
42 Statutes.

43 (d) Information. – The Board, upon request, shall provide the Secretary of Revenue the
44 name, address, and tax identification number of every nonresident individual and foreign entity
45 licensed by the Board. The information to be provided under this section shall be in a form
46 required by the Secretary of Revenue.

47 (e) Delinquents. – If the Secretary of Revenue determines that any nonresident
48 individual or foreign entity licensed by the Board owes a delinquent income tax debt, the
49 Secretary of Revenue may notify the Board of the nonresident individual and foreign entity and
50 instruct the Board not to renew the nonresident individual or foreign entity's license. The Board
51 shall not renew the license of a nonresident individual or foreign entity identified by the

1 Secretary of Revenue unless the Board receives a written statement from the Secretary that: (i)
 2 the debt has been paid, or (ii) the debt is being paid pursuant to an installment agreement."

3 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 89G-9(b) reads as rewritten:

4 "(b) As a condition of license renewal, ~~a~~an individual licensee shall meet continuing
 5 education requirements set by the Board. Each licensee shall complete 10 continuing education
 6 units per year. Failure to obtain continuing education units shall result in the forfeiture of a
 7 license. Upon forfeiture, a person shall be required to submit a new application and retake the
 8 examination as provided in this Chapter."

9 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 89G-10(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) The Board may impose the following fees not to exceed the amounts listed below:

- | | | | |
|----|------|--|-------------------|
| 11 | (1) | Application fee <u>Individual application and initial license</u> | \$100.00 |
| 12 | (2) | Examination fee | 200.00 |
| 13 | (3) | License <u>Individual license renewal</u> | 100.00 |
| 14 | (3a) | <u>Initial corporate, limited liability company, partnership,</u> | |
| 15 | | <u>or trade-name license</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| 16 | (3b) | <u>Corporate, limited liability company, partnership,</u> | |
| 17 | | <u>or trade-name renewal</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| 18 | (4) | Late renewal fee | 50.00 |
| 19 | (5) | License by reciprocity | 250.00 |
| 20 | (6) | Corporate license | 100.00 |
| 21 | (7) | Duplicate license | 25.00." |

22 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 89G-11 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 89G-11. Disciplinary action.**

24 (a) The Board may deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license or refuse to issue or
 25 renew a license if a licensee or applicant:

- 26 (1) Employs the use of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in obtaining or
 27 attempting to obtain a license or the renewal of a license.
- 28 (2) Practices or attempts to practice irrigation construction or contracting by
 29 fraudulent misrepresentation.
- 30 (3) Commits an act of gross malpractice or incompetence as determined by the
 31 Board.
- 32 (4) Has been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a crime that indicates
 33 that the person is unfit or incompetent to practice as an irrigation contractor
 34 or that indicates that the person has deceived or defrauded the public.
- 35 (5) Has been declared incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 36 (6) Has willfully violated any provision in this Chapter or any rules adopted by
 37 the Board.
- 38 (7) Uses or attempts to use the seal in a fraudulent or unauthorized manner.
- 39 (8) Fails to file the required surety bond or letter of credit or to keep the bond or
 40 letter of credit in force.

41 (b) The Board may assess costs, including attorneys' fees, in a proceeding under this
 42 section against an applicant or licensee found to be in violation of this Chapter."

43 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.