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HOUSE BILL NO. 810

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 11 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-1136 through 54.1-1140, relating to the Board for Contractors; licensure of construction crane operators.

Patrons—Woodrum, Barlow, Callahan, Darner, Grayson, Hull, Jackson, Jones, J.C., Keating, Kilgore, McEachin, Plum, Spruill, Stump and Watts

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 11 of Title 54.1 an article numbered 4, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-1136 through 54.1-1140, as follows:

*Article 4.**Construction Crane Operators.**§ 54.1-1136. Definitions.*

As used in the article, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Board" means the Board for Contractors.

"Construction crane" means any hoisting engine that lifts and rotates or moves a load horizontally, including hydraulic hoses and cranes; friction cranes; derricks; jib hoists; gantry; or bridge cranes, floating or land mounted on rubber or tracks.

§ 54.1-1137. License required; minimum qualifications.

A. Beginning July 1, 1999, no person shall operate a construction crane in the Commonwealth without a license issued by the Board. The Board shall approve the application for licensure of any person who, in the opinion of the Board, has satisfactorily met the requirements of this article and who has paid any applicable fees fixed by the Board.

Licenses issued by the Board shall expire at intervals as designated by the Board. A license may be renewed by the Board upon receipt of a formal request accompanied by any applicable fees.

B. To be eligible for licensure as a construction crane operator, an applicant shall meet each of the following minimum qualifications:

1. Be at least eighteen years of age;

2. Have at least 2,000 hours of crane operating experience in the immediately preceding four years or have employer verification by affidavit of at least 2,000 hours of crane operating experience. The adequacy of the required experience shall be determined by the Board in accordance with standards set forth in its regulations;

3. Pass an appropriate written examination approved by the Board and designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to operate a construction crane;

4. Pass the physical examination for a commercial driver's license as required by the Department of Motor Vehicles; and

5. Pass a practical or performance test established by the Board for a particular class of crane.

§ 54.1-1138. Exemptions.

The provisions of this article shall not apply to persons operating wrecker trucks, hoists with no bridge or trolley, work platforms with controls included in the basket, or cranes with a lifting capacity of no more than three tons.

§ 54.1-1139. Waiver of examination.

The Board may waive the examination requirement for licensure as a construction crane operator for an applicant who otherwise meets the requirements of this article and who makes written application to the Board and holds an unexpired certificate of registration, certification, or license to operate a construction crane issued to him on the basis of comparable requirements by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia.

§ 54.1-1140. Regulations and classes for training and licensing.

The Board shall promulgate regulations and standards for the training and licensing of construction crane operators. The Board may establish classes for training and licensing based upon the type of construction crane for which a construction crane operator seeks a license. The Board shall consider an applicant's prior experience in determining whether the applicant meets the training requirements imposed by this article.

2. That the Board for Contractors shall adopt regulations implementing the provisions of this article on or before July 1, 1999.

INTRODUCED

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