
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 518

Senate Amendment 1

2019 SENATE BILL 518

State law prohibits any person from engaging in business as a funeral director without a license granted by the Funeral Directors Examining Board (the Board). 2019 Senate Bill 518 makes changes to eligibility requirements for funeral director licenses.

To be eligible for a current license, among other requirements, a person must complete a funeral director apprenticeship; two academic years of instruction, at a recognized college or university, in a course of study approved by the Board; and nine months or more of instruction in a prescribed course in mortuary science approved by the Board. Also required is a 16-hour certification class approved by the Board. The certification must be completed prior to completion of the instruction in mortuary science and is a prerequisite to the apprenticeship.

Under the bill, the eligibility requirements are modified as follows:

- The bill requires completion of 24 semester credits of education, at a recognized college or university, in a course of study approved by the Board. This replaces the current standard of two academic years of education.
- The bill eliminates the requirement to complete the 16-hour certification class prior to completion of the prescribed course in mortuary science.
- Under the bill, the prerequisite for the apprenticeship may be satisfied in one of two ways. An applicant must complete either the 16-hour certification class or the prescribed course in mortuary science before beginning the apprenticeship. This will allow applicants who have completed the latter course to forego the certification prior to the apprenticeship. Otherwise, applicants may satisfy the prerequisite through the certification, as under current law.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 retains the provisions related to eligibility for funeral director licenses, as described above. In addition, it makes changes to continuing education requirements applicable to renewal of funeral director licenses. To renew a license under current law, a funeral director must have completed at least 15 hours of continuing education during the previous two-year licensure period. The amendment modifies this requirement as follows:

- For renewal of a license that expires on the first renewal date after the Board has initially granted the license, the funeral director must have completed at least four hours of continuing education subsequent to the date on which the initial license was granted.
- For each subsequent renewal, the funeral director must have completed at least 15 hours of continuing education during the previous two-year licensure period.

The amendment also requires the Board to promulgate rules specifying permitted or required subjects for the four hours of continuing education applicable to the first renewal, which must be subjects that the Board determines prepare a new licensee for practice as a funeral director.

BILL HISTORY

2019 Senate Bill 518 was introduced by Senator Kooyenga on October 18, 2019. Senator Kooyenga offered Senate Amendment 1 on January 7, 2020. On January 15, 2020, the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

AB:jal