

House Research Act Summary

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TOPIC: Contractor continuing education

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Overview

Modifies continuing education standards for residential building contractors.

Section

1 Continuing education.

- Establishes standards for residential building contractor continuing education. Specifies that the standards must include requirements related to implementation of the energy code or energy conservation measures.
- Directs that courses impart knowledge regarding state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.
- Requires examinations for Internet continuing education.
- Specifies that one credit hour of continuing education is equivalent to 50 minutes of educational content.
- Provides for course approval guidelines including the requirement that course content demonstrate significant intellectual or practical content and deal with matters directly related to the practice of residential construction, safety, or the operation of a residential construction company; professional responsibility or ethical obligations may also be addressed.
- Specifies automatic approval of courses approved by the state Board of Continuing Legal Education, or courses approved by the International Code Councils, the National Association of Home Building or other nationally recognized professional organizations of the residential construction industry.

- Courses that include code provisions that have not been adopted into the state building code, unless the course materials clarify whether the code provisions have been officially adopted into a future version of the code, will not be approved for credit.
- Provides standards for the approval of Internet continuing education courses.
- Provides for course sponsors and instructors and notice requirements for sponsors regarding courses and the credit availability status of courses for which less than full credit is available.
- Authorizes the commissioner of labor and industry, immediately after the adoption of a new residential code, to prescribe that up to seven of the required 14 hours of continuing education credit be specifically designated to code provisions.
- Increases course and sponsor approval fees.