

HB302 INTRODUCED



1 HB302
2 I3JXCWZ-1
3 By Representative Brown
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 21-Jan-26



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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, a professional bail bondsman
6 is not qualified to own his or her own professional
7 bail company until he or she has been licensed as a
8 professional bail bondsman for at least three years,
9 but that restriction does not apply to professional
10 surety bondsmen.

11 This bill would require a professional surety
12 bondsman to be licensed for at least three years before
13 he or she could own his or her own professional surety
14 company.

15 Under existing law, there is an annual
16 recertification process for professional bond companies
17 with certain reporting requirements the companies must
18 follow.

19 This bill would require circuit clerks to
20 prepare a report listing all professional bail bond
21 companies authorized to operate in the circuit within
22 30 days of the presiding circuit judge issuing the
23 authorization order.

24 Under existing law, the terms "apprentice" and
25 "employee" are defined in the administrative rules of
26 the board but not in the Code of Alabama 1975.

27 This bill would define the terms.

28 Under existing law, an apprentice bondsman

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29 license expires after 120 days, and the Alabama
30 Professional Bail Bonding Board may provide exceptions
31 so that applicants who are 19 or 20 years of age may
32 hold an apprentice license until they are 21 years of
33 age.

34 This bill would extend the apprentice license
35 expiration to 180 days, provide that an apprentice
36 license can only be issued once, and require a 19 or 20
37 year old apprentice to complete an eight hour
38 instructional course.

39 Under existing law, the Governor is responsible
40 for appointing to the Alabama Professional Bail Bonding
41 Board one circuit, district, or municipal judge who is
42 currently serving and one municipal or circuit court
43 clerk who is currently serving.

44 This bill would provide that the appointed judge
45 and court clerk may be currently serving,
46 supernumerary, or retired.

47 This bill would provide the Governor two
48 additional appointments to the board, one serving
49 sheriff, nominated by the Alabama Sheriff's
50 Association, and one lay person, nominated by the
51 Alabama Bail Bond Association.

52 Under existing law, the Alabama Professional
53 Bail Bonding Board must select a new president and vice
54 president each time a new member is appointed to the
55 board.

56 This bill would rename the positions of

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57 president and vice president chair and vice chair.

58 This bill would also remove the requirement that
59 a new chair and vice chair be elected each time a new
60 member is appointed to the board.

61 Under existing law, there is no late fee for
62 submitting a license renewal application after the
63 deadline.

64 This bill would impose a late fee on renewal
65 applications submitted after the deadline.

66 This bill would impose an additional late fee
67 for license renewal fees paid after the deadline.

68 Under existing law, there is no residency
69 requirement to become a licensed bondsman in this
70 state.

71 This bill would require applicants to be a
72 resident of this state for at least one year to become
73 a licensed bondsman.

74 Under existing law, there is no process for
75 placing a bondsman license in inactive status.

76 This bill would impose a late fee on late
77 license renewal and would provide a process for placing
78 a license in inactive status as well as reverting an
79 inactive license to active status.

80 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
81 technical revisions to update the existing code
82 language to current style.



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113 technical revisions to update the existing code language to
114 current style.

115 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

116 Section 1. Sections 15-13-159, 15-13-160, 15-13-201,
117 15-13-202, 15-13-203, 15-13-205, 15-13-210, 15-13-211, and
118 15-13-217, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
119 follows:

120 "§15-13-159

121 (a) No professional surety company shall execute or
122 become surety on any appearance bond in this state, unless it
123 has an order granting authorization to become professional
124 surety on any bail. The order granting the authorization shall
125 be reissued annually, prior to January 1 of each year, by the
126 presiding circuit judge of the county in which the company
127 desires to execute bail or appearance bonds. Prior to the
128 judge's issuance of the original order and no later than
129 December 1 of each year, thereafter, professional surety
130 companies shall submit annually to the presiding circuit judge
131 the following:

132 (1) An original or certified copy of a certificate of
133 authority or certificate of compliance from the Department of
134 Insurance reflecting that the company is qualified to write a
135 bail line of insurance and that the company is in good
136 standing with the department.

137 (2) An original qualifying power of attorney issued by
138 the professional surety company, specifying any applicable
139 limitations and the names of the agents that may execute and
140 bind the company to a bail undertaking. The qualifying power



141 of attorney shall not name any company, corporation, or other
142 entity as an agent except a person as defined as a
143 professional bondsman in Division 1, Section 15-13-100, and
144 that person shall be an agent of the company licensed with the
145 Department of Insurance.

146 (3) A copy of the license issued by the Department of
147 Insurance of each agent who is named in or appointed by the
148 qualifying power of attorney in subdivision (2) or a letter or
149 other documentation from the department indicating that the
150 appointed agents are temporarily licensed as agents of the
151 professional surety company for those lines of insurance.

152 (4) An affidavit or certification in writing, under
153 oath, executed by a licensed agent of the professional surety
154 company who is the manager or an owner or president of a
155 corporation, company, partnership, or other entity that
156 represents the professional surety company, filed with the
157 clerk of the circuit court of each county in which the
158 professional surety company executes or becomes surety on
159 appearance bonds, stating the following:

160 a. That all appearance bonds shall be executed in the
161 name of the professional surety company as surety by the
162 agents listed or appointed in the qualifying power of attorney
163 presented to the court or any other qualifying powers of
164 attorney filed with the circuit clerk of the county.

165 b. That all agents listed or appointed in the
166 qualifying powers of attorney shall be licensed by the
167 Department of Insurance, prior to their appointments.

168 c. That any agency, company, corporation, or other



169 entity that represents the professional surety company in the
170 county, has no owners or other persons having a direct or
171 indirect financial interest in such agency, company,
172 corporation, or other entity, that have been convicted of a
173 felony or a crime involving moral turpitude. If any
174 personindividual having a direct or indirect financial
175 interest in such agency, company, corporation, or other entity
176 has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral
177 turpitude, then the affidavit or certification shall certify
178 that there has been such conviction, providing the name of the
179 personindividual convicted, and certify that the
180 personindividual convicted has been pardoned or has had a
181 restoration of civil rights.

182 d. That the professional surety company has no
183 knowledge of forfeitures that have been final for more than 30
184 days that have not been paid to the clerk of the court arising
185 out of surety undertaking, and that the professional surety
186 company has no petitions, motions, or other litigation matters
187 pending.

188 e. That no agents of the professional surety company
189 who have the authority to execute appearance bonds in its
190 behalf or any person having a financial interest, direct or
191 indirect, in the ownership or management of any agency,
192 company, corporation, or other entity that represents the
193 professional surety company in the execution of appearance
194 bonds, is an attorney, a judicial official, a person
195 authorized to accept an appearance bond, or an agent of an
196 attorney, judicial official, or person authorized to accept an



197 appearance bond.

198 f. The names and addresses of all persons, officers,
199 employees, and agents of the agency, company, corporation, or
200 other entity that represents the professional surety company
201 becoming surety on appearance bonds who have a direct or
202 indirect financial interest in the agency, company,
203 corporation, or other entity representing the professional
204 surety company and the nature and extent of each interest.

205 g. That those persons stated in this section have not,
206 within a period of two years, violated any provisions of this
207 chapter or any rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Alabama
208 in accordance with this chapter.

209 (5) A copy of the current license issued by the Alabama
210 Professional Bail Bonding Board pursuant to the Alabama Bail
211 Bond Regulatory Act, Article 8.

212 (b) A professional surety bondsman may not own a
213 professional surety company until he or she has been licensed
214 as a professional surety bondsman for at least three years. If
215 the owner of a professional surety company dies or becomes
216 completely incapacitated, as determined by the board, his or
217 her professional surety company may be sold to an unlicensed
218 individual. The unlicensed individual shall have 90 calendar
219 days, from date of purchase, to obtain a license and shall
220 employ a minimum of one employee who has been licensed for at
221 least three consecutive years."

222 "§15-13-160

223 (a) No professional bail company shall execute or
224 become surety on any appearance bond in this state, unless the



225 company has an order granting authorization to become
226 professional surety on any bail. The order granting
227 authorization shall be reissued annually prior to January 1 of
228 each year by the presiding circuit judge of the county in
229 which the company desires to execute bail or appearance bonds.
230 Prior to the judge's issuance of the original order and no
231 later than December 1 of each year, thereafter, professional
232 bail companies shall submit annually to the presiding circuit
233 judge the following:

234 (1)a. An original corporate surety bond or escrow
235 agreement, filed and approved by the presiding circuit judge
236 of the county in which the professional bail company executes
237 or becomes surety on appearance bonds, in the amount of
238 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), guaranteeing the
239 payment of all sums of money that may become due by virtue of
240 any judgment absolute that may be rendered against the
241 professional bail company on a forfeiture entered by any court
242 in the county. Corporate surety bonds shall be executed only
243 by a surety company authorized to do business in the this
244 state and qualified to write bonds by the Department of
245 Insurance. The corporate surety bond shall provide that it may
246 be cancelled as to any future liability by the corporate
247 surety company or the professional bail company by giving 30
248 ~~days~~days' prior written notice of the cancellation to the
249 clerk of the circuit court in which the bond or instrument was
250 filed. A bank in this state shall be a party to all escrow
251 agreements, and those agreements shall provide that the
252 agreement may be cancelled as to any future liability only by



253 the professional bail company and bank by giving 30 ~~days~~days'
254 prior written notice of the cancellation to the clerk of the
255 circuit court in which the escrow agreement or instrument is
256 filed. Once a professional bail company has filed an original
257 continuous corporate surety bond or escrow agreement with the
258 circuit clerk and it has been approved by the presiding
259 circuit judge, then the professional bail company does not
260 have to file any other original continuous corporate surety
261 bond or escrow agreement upon annual recertification. The
262 professional bail company shall submit an original certificate
263 from the insurance company that executed the corporate surety
264 bond reflecting that it is still in force or an original
265 letter from the bank stating the escrow agreement is still
266 effective and the monies are still held in trust. When any
267 professional bail company is annually recertifying, the
268 circuit clerk shall send the original corporate surety bond or
269 original escrow agreement with any cancellations received by
270 the circuit clerk to the presiding circuit judge for review
271 and approval.

272 b. Any new original corporate surety bond or escrow
273 agreement made on or after September 1, 2023, in a county with
274 a population of 200,000 or more, shall require a surety bond
275 or escrow agreement in the amount of fifty thousand dollars
276 (\$50,000). This paragraph does not affect any corporate surety
277 bond or escrow agreement made before September 1, 2023.
278 Current escrow agreements and corporate surety bonds shall
279 remain at twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for any
280 renewal thereafter.



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281 (2) An original qualifying power of attorney, letter,
282 or other document issued by the professional bail company
283 specifying any applicable limitations and specifying the
284 agents who are authorized to execute and bind the professional
285 bail company to a bail undertaking or to appearance bonds. The
286 qualifying power of attorney, letter, or other document may
287 only name persons as agents.

288 (3) An original affidavit or certificate in writing,
289 under oath, executed by an owner or officer of a professional
290 bail company, to the clerk of the circuit court of the county
291 in which the professional bail company shall execute or become
292 surety on appearance bonds which contains all of the
293 following:

294 a. That all appearance bonds shall be executed in the
295 name of the professional bail company as surety by the agents
296 listed or appointed in the qualifying power of attorney,
297 letter, or other document presented to the court or any other
298 person so named in any future qualifying powers of attorney,
299 letters, or documents filed with the circuit clerk of the
300 county.

301 b. That the professional bail company is qualified to
302 do business in this state and its resident address.

303 c. That the professional bail company has sufficient
304 financial net worth to satisfy its obligations as a surety.

305 d. That no person having a direct or indirect financial
306 interest in the professional bail company has been convicted
307 of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.

308 Notwithstanding the foregoing, if any person having a direct



309 or indirect financial interest in the bonding business has
310 been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral
311 turpitude, then the person making the certification shall
312 certify that there has been a conviction, provide the name of
313 the person convicted, and certify that the person convicted
314 has been pardoned or has had a restoration of civil rights.

315 e. That the professional bail company has no knowledge
316 of any forfeiture that has been made final for more than 30
317 days that has not been paid arising out of surety undertakings
318 and as to which the professional bail company has no
319 petitions, motions, or other litigation matters pending.

320 f. That there are no persons, including employees,
321 agents, or persons with a financial interest in the
322 professional bail company, who, within a period of two years,
323 violated this chapter, or any rules adopted by the Supreme
324 Court governing the qualifications of professional surety or
325 bail companies.

326 g. That no employee, agent, or any other person having
327 a direct or indirect financial interest in the professional
328 bail company is an attorney, a judicial official, a person
329 authorized to accept an appearance bond, or an agent of an
330 attorney, judicial official, or person authorized to accept an
331 appearance bond.

332 h. The names and addresses of all officers, employees,
333 and agents of the professional bail company who have a direct
334 or indirect financial interest in the professional bail
335 company and the nature and extent of each interest.

336 (b) (1) No more than 30 days after the presiding circuit



337 judge of the county issues the order granting authorization to
338 professional bail companies, the circuit clerk shall prepare a
339 list of authorized bail bond companies. The list shall include
340 all of the following information:

341 a. The name of each authorized bail bond company.

342 b. The name of each principal attached to each
343 authorized bail bond company.

344 c. All final forfeitures and bail bond posting fees
345 owed to the court by each company.

346 (2) The circuit clerk shall also submit the list of
347 authorized bail bond companies to the Alabama Professional
348 Bail Bonding Board.

349 (c) A professional bondsman may not own a professional
350 bail company until he or she has been licensed as a
351 professional bondsman for at least three years. If the owner
352 of a professional bail company dies or becomes completely
353 incapacitated, as determined by the board, his or her
354 professional bail bond company may be sold to an unlicensed
355 individual. The unlicensed individual shall have 90 calendar
356 days, from date of purchase, to obtain a license and shall
357 employ a minimum of one employee who has been licensed for at
358 least three consecutive years."

359 "§15-13-201

360 For the purposes of this article, the following terms
361 shall have the following meanings:

362 (1) APPRENTICE. Any individual working directly for and
363 under the direct supervision of a fully-licensed professional
364 bail bondsman, professional surety bondsman, or recovery



365 agent, who is engaged in the bail bond or professional surety
366 business, and who has been granted an apprentice license by
367 the board.

368 ~~(1)~~(2) BOARD. Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board.

369 (3) EMPLOYEE. a. Any individual who engages in the
370 performance of any of the duties of or for a professional bail
371 company or professional surety company, including, but not
372 limited to, clerical, stenographic, investigative, or
373 administrative duties, or any other work or responsibilities
374 under the contract of hire, express or implied, oral or
375 written, where the employer has the authority or right to
376 control or direct the employee in how the duties, work, or
377 responsibilities are carried out or performed.

378 b. The term includes any individual who has
379 communication or interaction with potential or actual
380 customers and any individual who is working as an apprentice.

381 c. The term does not include any person whose bail
382 bondsman license has been revoked.

383 ~~(2)~~(4) PROFESSIONAL BAIL COMPANY. A person, individual
384 proprietor, partnership corporation, or other entity, other
385 than a professional surety company, that furnishes bail or
386 becomes surety for a person on an appearance bond and does so
387 for a valuable consideration.

388 ~~(3)~~(5) PROFESSIONAL BONDSMAN. Any individual or agent
389 who is employed by a professional bail company or professional
390 surety company to solicit and execute appearance bonds or
391 actively seek bail bond business for or on behalf of a
392 professional bail company, including any individual who has a



393 direct or indirect ownership interest in a professional bail
394 company.

395 ~~(4)~~(6) PROFESSIONAL SURETY BONDSMAN. Any individual who
396 is employed by a professional surety company to solicit and
397 execute appearance bonds or actively seek bail bond business
398 for or on behalf of a professional surety company, including
399 any individual who has a direct or indirect ownership interest
400 in a professional surety company.

401 ~~(5)~~(7) PROFESSIONAL SURETY COMPANY. An insurance
402 company, domestic or foreign corporation, or association
403 engaged in the business of insurance, or a surety with a bail
404 line of insurance to which has been issued a certificate of
405 authority or certificate of compliance by the Department of
406 Insurance to execute appearance bonds or bail bonds in
407 criminal cases in the state.

408 ~~(6)~~(8) RECOVERY AGENT. Any individual, other than an
409 attorney or law enforcement officer, utilized by a
410 professional surety company, professional bail company, or
411 professional bondsman to apprehend a defendant who was
412 released on bail and who violated the terms of his or her
413 bail."

414 "§15-13-202

415 (a) An individual may not hold himself or herself out
416 to the public as a professional bondsman or a professional
417 surety bondsman, operate as a recovery agent, or use any term,
418 title, or abbreviation that expresses, infers, or implies that
419 the individual is licensed as a professional bondsman unless
420 the individual at the time holds a valid license as a



421 professional bondsman as provided in this article.

422 (b) All applicants shall pass an examination, unless
423 exempted by this article, based on criteria established by the
424 Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board and established under
425 Section 15-13-203 and shall comply with the continuing
426 education requirements established by this article.

427 (c) The board may issue an apprentice license, which
428 expires 120180 days after issuance, to any applicant who
429 satisfies all criteria for licensure except passing the
430 examination. The board may require an applicant for licensurea
431 license as an apprentice to sign an affidavit, on a form
432 provided by the board, attesting that the applicant has no
433 felony convictions. An apprentice license shall only be issued
434 once, and a licensee who has previously possessed a
435 professional license may not receive a subsequent apprentice
436 license. The board, by rule, may also provide an age exception
437 to allow any applicant who is 19 or 20 years of age to work as
438 an apprentice until he or she reaches the age of 21 years of
439 age. Before the expiration of his or her apprentice license,
440 an apprentice who is 19 or 20 years of age shall complete an
441 eight-hour continuing education instructional course conducted
442 by an educational provider approved by the Alabama
443 Professional Bail Bonding Board, at no cost to the apprentice.
444 The board may charge a fee, not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50),
445 for an apprentice license.

446 (d) An apprentice may perform all duties without direct
447 supervision, except for the apprehension of a fugitive. An
448 apprentice shall have his or her license available at all



449 times."

450 "§15-13-203

451 (a) The Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board is
452 created to administer and enforce this article. The board
453 shall consist of all of the following members:

454 (1) Seven professional bondsmen, one from each of the
455 seven congressional districts of the state, nominated by the
456 Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed by the Governor
457 from a list of not more than four nominees for each position
458 on the board. For the initial terms of office, the President
459 of the Alabama Bail Bond Association shall be the professional
460 bondsman member of the board who represents the congressional
461 district in which he or she resides. Each professional
462 bondsman member appointed to the board shall be the owner of a
463 professional bail bond company with at least five years of
464 experience. Except as otherwise provided, no two professional
465 bondsman members shall reside in the same congressional
466 district. If no professional bondsman is available for
467 nomination by the Alabama Bail Bond Association for a
468 congressional district, the Alabama Bail Bond Association
469 shall provide a list of four professional bondsman nominees
470 from the state ~~at large~~at-large to the Governor for that
471 congressional district, and the Governor shall appoint one of
472 those nominees to fill that position on the board.

473 (2) One ~~serving~~ circuit, district, or municipal court
474 judge, who is presently serving, supernumerary, or retired,
475 nominated by the Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed
476 by the Governor from a list of four nominees.



477 (3) One ~~serving~~—circuit or municipal court clerk, who
478 is presently serving, supernumerary, or retired, nominated by
479 the Alabama Bail Bond Association and appointed by the
480 Governor from a list of four nominees.

487 (b) The appointments to the board shall be for terms of
488 four years. The nominating and appointing authorities shall
489 coordinate their nominations and appointments ~~so that~~
490 ~~diversity of gender, race, and geographical areas is~~
491 ~~reflective to assure the membership is inclusive and reflects~~
492 the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic
493 diversity of the makeup of this state. Vacancies shall be
494 filled by appointment of the Governor for the unexpired
495 portion of the term.

496 (c) The board, pursuant to the Alabama Administrative
497 Procedure Act, Chapter 22 of Title 41, shall adopt and enforce
498 reasonable rules as the board determines necessary to
499 effectively and efficiently carry out its official duty of
500 licensing and regulating professional bail bond companies and
501 professional bondsmen.

502 (d) Each member of the board shall receive travel and
503 per diem compensation for expenses incurred in the conduct of
504 official duties while attending meetings and transacting the



505 business of the board, in accordance with applicable state
506 travel and per diem paid to state employees. The compensation
507 of members shall be paid from funds available to the board in
508 the same manner as other expenses are paid."

509 "§15-13-205

510 At the initial meeting of the board ~~and each time a new~~
511 ~~member is appointed to the board~~, the members of the board
512 shall select from among their members a president chair to
513 preside over meetings of the board, a vice president chair to
514 preside in the absence of the president chair, and a
515 secretary."

516 "§15-13-210

517 (a) An application and all information on an
518 application for ~~licensure~~a license pursuant to this article
519 shall be treated as confidential and shall be filed with the
520 board on forms prescribed by the board. The application shall
521 include all of the following information of the applicant:

522 (1) His or her full name.

523 (2) His or her date of birth.

524 (3) All residences during the immediate past five
525 years.

526 (4) All employment or occupations engaged in during the
527 immediate past five years.

528 (5) A list of convictions and pending charges involving
529 a felony or misdemeanor in any jurisdiction.

530 (b) (1) On or before September 1 each year, the board
531 shall send an email reminder to each licensee stating that the
532 last day for submitting an application for a license renewal



533 is September 30 of that year.

534 (2) Failure to submit a renewal application by
535 September 30 shall result in a late application fee of one
536 hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125)."

537 "§15-13-211

538 Each individual applicant shall meet all of the
539 following criteria, demonstrating that he or she:

540 (1) Is at least 21 years of age.

541 (2) Has not been declared by any court of competent
542 jurisdiction as incompetent by reason of mental defect or
543 disease unless a court of competent jurisdiction has
544 subsequently declared the applicant competent.

545 (3) Has not been convicted of a crime of moral
546 turpitude, with the board having the final determination on
547 the interpretation of moral turpitude.

548 (4) Has not been convicted of a felony.

549 (5) Has successfully completed ~~pre-licensure~~pre-license
550 education administered by an educational provider approved by
551 the board.

552 (6) Has been a resident of this state for at least one
553 year, as demonstrated by the applicant's Alabama driver
554 license, Alabama nondriver identification card, or voter
555 registration card."

556 "§15-13-217

557 (a) A professional bondsman, professional surety
558 bondsman, or recovery agent commencing business in any
559 judicial circuit in this state on and after June 1, 2020,
560 shall attend a 16-hour instructional course conducted by an



561 educational provider approved by the board and pass an
562 examination approved by the board and administered by an
563 educational provider approved by the board. Upon completion of
564 the course and passage of the examination, the individual
565 shall be awarded a ~~pre-licensure~~pre-license examination
566 certificate by the board, copies of which may be submitted to
567 the presiding circuit judge, or other judicial authority,
568 along with the other requirements set forth in Section
569 15-13-159 or Section 15-13-160. Those professional bondsmen,
570 professional surety bondsmen, and recovery agents doing
571 business immediately prior to June 1, 2020, are exempt from
572 the initial instructional course and examination.

573 (b) Unless exempted pursuant to subsection (i), a
574 professional bondsman, professional surety bondsman, or
575 recovery agent making an annual filing in any circuit in this
576 state pursuant to Section 15-13-159 or Section 15-13-160 on
577 and after March 1, 2020, shall first complete eight hours of
578 continuing education conducted by an educational provider
579 approved by the board. A professional bail company owner, who
580 is at least 55 years of age and has five years of experience
581 in the profession, shall only be required to complete four
582 hours of continuing education. The educational provider
583 approved by the board shall provide the board with the name of
584 all professional bondsmen, professional surety bondsmen, or
585 recovery agents completing eight hours of continuing
586 education. Upon completion of the eight hours of continuing
587 education, the individual shall request issuance of an annual
588 continuing education certificate from the board, copies of



589 which may be submitted to the presiding circuit judge along
590 with the other requirements set forth in Section 15-13-159 or
591 Section 15-13-160.

592 (c) The instructional course, examination, or
593 continuing education courses shall be taught or sponsored by
594 an educational provider approved by the board, which must
595 apply annually for authority to offer such examination or
596 courses.

597 (d) A list of approved course providers shall be
598 published on the website of the board.

599 (e) The cost of the instructional course shall be set
600 by the approved course provider but shall not exceed five
601 hundred dollars (\$500) per course. Upon completion of the
602 instructional course, the approved course provider shall issue
603 an instructional course completion certificate in a form
604 approved by the board. This completion certificate, along with
605 the application fee, must be presented to the board in order
606 to take the ~~pre-licensure~~pre-license examination. An
607 instructional course completion certificate shall be valid for
608 a period of 12 months.

609 (f) The cost of continuing education courses shall be
610 set by the approved course provider but shall not exceed
611 seventy-five dollars (\$75) per hour. Any fee required to be
612 paid by a course provider for reporting continuing education
613 course completion to the board may be added to the maximum
614 charges provided in this subsection.

615 (g) Each professional bondsman, professional surety
616 bondsman, and recovery agent must renew his or her

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617 certification with the board by completing eight hours of
618 approved continuing education prior to September 30 each year.
619 Late renewal within the next 12 months may be had by
620 completing the eight hours of continuing education and paying
621 a renewal license fee of twice the amount otherwise required.
622 If a professional bondsman, professional surety bondsman, or
623 recovery agent fails to renew a certification for a 12-month
624 period, the professional bondsman, professional surety
625 bondsman, or recovery agent will be required to take the
626 instructional course and examination to again become
627 certified.

628 (h) The board, by rule, shall set the fees to be paid
629 to the board in the administration of this section, not to
630 exceed the maximum amounts set forth below:

631 (1) a. Application fee for a professional bondsman,
632 professional surety bondsman, or a recovery agent, a
633 nonrefundable fee to be paid to take the examination and for
634 the issuance of the ~~pre-licensure~~pre-license examination
635 certificate, per examination attempt: Up to five hundred
636 dollars (\$500).

637 b. Application fee for a professional bail company or a
638 professional surety company, a nonrefundable fee to be paid
639 for the issuance of an initial license: Up to five hundred
640 dollars (\$500). Payment of this fee does not alleviate the
641 requirement that each individual professional bondsman,
642 professional surety bondsman, and recovery agent be licensed
643 under this chapter.

644 (2) a. Annual license renewal fee for a professional



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645 bondsman, professional surety bondsman, or recovery agent, to
646 be paid to receive the annual continuing education
647 certificate: From fifty dollars (\$50) up to five hundred
648 dollars (\$500).

649 b. Annual license renewal fee for a professional bail
650 company or a professional surety company, to be paid to
651 receive the renewal license: Up to one hundred dollars (\$100).

652 (3) A late fee to be charged for any late license
653 renewal. The late fee shall be equal to the amount of the
654 license renewal fee.

655 (4) Renewal of an inactive license: Up to one hundred
656 dollars (\$100). The renewal is subject to the following
657 requirements:

658 a. A licensee may place their license into inactive
659 status at anytime and renew the inactive license during the
660 renewal period.

661 b. Failure to renew an inactive license will result in
662 a late fee added to the license renewal fee equal to the
663 amount of the license renewal fee.

664 c. The licensee may revert to active status once they
665 pay for an active license, pass a background check, and
666 complete the continuing education requirements.

667 (i) Any professional bondsman or professional bail
668 company owner who, on August 1, 2021, is at least 65 years of
669 age and has 15 years of experience in the profession, shall be
670 exempt from the continuing education requirements of this
671 article.

672 (j) The board shall adopt rules necessary to carry out

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673 this section."

674 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
675 1, 2026.