
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Andrea Brauer, Staff Attorney

March 6, 2020

2019 Wisconsin Act 94 [2019 Senate Bill 156]

Retired Credential Status for Certain Professionals

2019 Wisconsin Act 94 requires each Section of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Professional Land Surveyors (Board) to promulgate rules that allow the holder of any credential issued by that Section to apply to the Board to have his or her credential classified as “retired status” if: (1) the credential holder is at least 65 years old or has actively maintained the credential for 20 years, which need not be consecutive; and (2) the credential holder certifies that he or she is no longer actively practicing, except that the rules may not require that the certification be notarized. A person who meets these criteria may apply for retired status regardless of whether the credential is active or has already expired. A credential holder also can apply to remove the retired status classification if he or she satisfies reinstatement requirements established by rule.

Individuals who hold a credential in retired status may not engage in the practice for which they hold the credential but may continue to use the title associated with the credential if they clearly indicate to the public that they are retired, including by placing the abbreviation “Ret.” or similar appellation after the title. Such individuals are exempt from continuing education requirements but must renew the credential every two years. The renewal fee for a credential in retired status is one-half of the usual renewal fee.

The act also specifies that the Board may promulgate emergency rules necessary to implement the act without a finding of emergency, and without providing evidence that the emergency rule is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare. If promulgated, the emergency rules remain in effect until May 1, 2021, or the date on which permanent rules take effect, whichever is sooner.

Effective date: December 1, 2020, except that the emergency rulemaking authority took effect on February 7, 2020.

AB:mca;ksm