



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 200
[2005 Senate Bill 516]

Continuing Education and Certification Requirements for Building Contractors

Current law requires that, with certain specified exceptions, a person may not begin the construction of a building that is subject to the one- and two-family dwelling code (dwelling code), as promulgated by the Department of Commerce, unless that person obtains an annual certificate of financial responsibility from the Department of Commerce demonstrating that the person has met the appropriate bonding and insurance requirements.

2005 Wisconsin Act 200 establishes new continuing education requirements for persons applying for a building permit under the dwelling code. Under the Act, a person may not obtain a building permit unless the person verifies the following:

1. Annual completion of at least six hours of continuing education relevant to the professional area of expertise of the person seeking to obtain a building permit, approved by the department.
2. Attendance at one or more professional meetings or educational seminars designed for both building contractors and building inspectors.
3. For a person who does not hold a certificate of financial responsibility on April 11, 2006, successful completion of an examination developed by the department on the continuing education courses required under this subsection.

Commerce may revoke the certification of a person who does not meet the continuing education requirements or who violates certain other requirements specified under current law.

The Act renames the current Contractor Financial Responsibility Council as the Contractor Certification Council (Council) and requires that the Council recommend appropriate contractor continuing education courses to the Department of Commerce.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

The Act directs a municipality issuing a building permit to require an owner who applies for a building permit to sign a statement advising the owner that if he or she hires a contractor to perform work under the building permit and the contractor is not bonded or insured, certain consequences, specified under current law, may occur.

The continuing education requirement portions of the Act [ss. 101.65 (1m) and 101.654 (1) (a), Stats.] have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2008.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on April 11, 2006.

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DWS:jal