



April 6, 2020

## **Pennsylvania Changes Certain Requirements for Barbers, Cosmetologists, Accountants and Nursing Home Administrators During COVID-19 Emergency**

Several boards within the Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) have regulations requiring an applicant or licensee to perform or complete some act, or a series of acts, within a fixed period. Often the act or acts are related to completion of certain training and/or education. The COVID-19 emergency has made complying with those types of regulatory requirements difficult. Many employers are temporarily closed, making it difficult to continue to pursue many types of training activities. The same is true of most educational institutions (colleges, trade schools, etc.) and private testing companies that in many cases are the exclusive providers of certain examinations.

Even if some employers or schools were open, many people are not able to leave their home because of various governmental "stay-at-home" orders, while others are either self-quarantined or "sheltered-in" due to concerns over having, or becoming infected with, the coronavirus. Applicants and licensees should not be penalized or have their applications and licenses jeopardized when, through no fault of their own, time periods continue to run (or expire) due to the COVID-19 emergency. For those reasons, the Department of State requested a waiver, extension and/or temporary suspension of the following regulations which have been approved by the Governor:

### **For the State Board of Barber Examiners**

The Department and the State Board of Barber Examiners requested a waiver of the requirement that applicants for license as a barber or barber-teacher must pass both portions of the licensure examination within one (1) year of initial testing. This waiver will apply for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. **An applicant whose one-year deadline expired or expires during the emergency will have one year after the emergency ends to take any remaining portion of the exam.**

### **For the State Board of Cosmetology**

The Department and the State Board of Cosmetology requested a waiver of the requirement that applicants who have a limited license and wish to receive educational credits must complete the total of 1,250 cosmetology training hours within four (4) consecutive years. A waiver was also requested for the provision that schools require students to accomplish the necessary training hours within four consecutive years. **These waivers will apply for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, and then be**

**extended for one year after the end of the disaster declaration. For the State Board of Accountancy**

The Department and the State Board of Accountancy hereby requested a waiver of the requirement that CPA examination candidates pass all parts of the examination during a rolling 18-month period that begins on the date the candidate first passes one part of the examination. **This waiver shall extend for the duration of the emergency plus an additional 180 days from the end of the emergency.**

**For the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators**

The Department and State Board of Examiners of Nursing Homes requested that the two-year timeframe be extended for an additional one (1) year, so that **anyone in an AIT program as of March 6, 2020, when the Governor's emergency declaration was declared, will have a total of three (3) years in which to complete their program from the original date of Board approval.**

For all licensing-related inquiries, please use the email addresses found here: [Board Contact Info.](#)