

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 64

BY SENATOR SWOPE

[Introduced January 9, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on the Workforce; and then to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §21-3D-3 and §21-3D-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, all relating generally to certification requirements of crane operators; providing
3 that crane operators may be certified by additional nationally recognized accredited
4 agencies; and changing the written exam requirements for Class A and Class B
5 certifications.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3D. CRANE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION ACT.

§21-3D-3. Powers and duties of commissioner.

1 (a) The commissioner shall:

2 (1) Propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*
3 *seq.* of this code, which rules at the minimum must include provisions for:

4 (A) A Class A certification program for individuals who operate cranes or tower cranes in
5 the State of West Virginia, which must require both a written examination and a practical
6 demonstration, and which must be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency:
7 *Provided, That in order to be accredited, certification providers must be accredited by a nationally*
8 *recognized accrediting agency: Provided, however, That for purposes of this section, a “nationally*
9 *recognized accrediting agency” means an organization that, due to its independence and*
10 *expertise, is widely recognized as competent to accredit testing organizations. Examples of such*
11 *accrediting agencies include, but are not limited to, the National Commission for Certifying*
12 *Agencies and the American National Standards Institute’s Personnel Certification Accreditation*
13 *Program;*

14 (B) A Class B certification program for individuals who operate cranes or tower cranes in
15 the State of West Virginia, which must require the successful completion of a training course;

16 (C) Certification categories including lattice boom truck cranes; lattice boom crawler
17 cranes; fixed cab-telescoping boom cranes; swing cab-telescoping boom cranes; and tower
18 cranes: *Provided, That the holders of a certification for the large telescoping boom crane, upon*

19 application for recertification, will be provided with a one-time election to either be certified as an
20 operator of a fixed-cab or swing-cab telescoping boom crane, and that holders of a certification
21 for the small telescoping boom crane, upon application for recertification, will be automatically
22 certified as a fixed-cab operator;

23 (D) Class A certification renewal requirements of individuals who operate cranes in the
24 State of West Virginia, that must include a written examination and a current physician's certificate
25 at least every five years; and

26 (E) Class B certification renewal requirements of individuals who operate cranes in the
27 State of West Virginia, that must include the successful completion of a training course approved
28 by the commissioner;

29 (2) Prescribe application forms for original and renewal certification;

30 (3) Set application fees in amounts that are reasonable and necessary to defray the costs
31 of the administration of this article in an amount not to exceed \$75 per year;

32 (4) Set examination and training course fees in an amount not to exceed the actual cost
33 of the examination and the training course;

34 (5) Administer or cause to be administered the written examination, practical
35 demonstrations, and the training course as required for certification;

36 (6) Determine the standards for acceptable performance on the written examination,
37 practical demonstration, and the required training course: *Provided*, That the minimum standards
38 must be consistent with national standards, current operating procedures, and technology and be
39 transferable to other states where possible;

40 (7) Provide the option for applicants and crane operators to take examinations that meet
41 or exceed requirements for national crane operator certification; and

42 (8) Take other action as necessary to enforce this article.

43 (b) The commissioner, or his or her designee, upon receipt of information that a person
44 has engaged in or is engaging in an act that constitutes a violation of this article, may issue a

45 notice to the person to cease and desist and may apply to the circuit court for an order enjoining
46 the act. Upon a showing that the person has engaged in or is engaging in an act that constitutes
47 a violation of this article, the court may order an injunction, restraining order, or other order as the
48 court considers appropriate.

§21-3D-4. Minimum certification requirements.

1 (a) The commissioner shall certify an applicant who:

2 (1) Is at least 18 years of age;

3 (2) Meets the application requirements as prescribed by rule;

4 (3) Passes the written examination;

5 (4) Passes the practical demonstration: *Provided*, That the practical demonstration
6 approved by the commissioner may be administered on-site by a qualified company
7 representative;

8 (5) Presents the original, or a photographic copy, of a physician's certificate that he or she
9 is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle as required by 49 C.F.R. §391.41, as
10 of the effective date of this article or an equivalent physician's certificate as approved by the
11 commissioner; and

12 (6) Pays the appropriate fees.

13 (b) Certification issued under this article is valid throughout the state and is not assignable
14 or transferable, and is valid for one year from the date on which it was issued.

15 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the commissioner
16 shall establish a dual classification system of certification as follows:

17 (1) Class A certification, which will provide eligibility for national certification, and for which
18 the applicant must achieve a passing score of ~~seventy on the national commission for the~~
19 ~~certification of crane operators written examination~~ on a nationally recognized crane operator
20 testing organization's written exam;

21 (2) Class B certification, for which the commissioner may accept a lesser score on ~~the~~

22 ~~national commission for the certification of crane operators written examination~~ a nationally
23 recognized crane operator testing organization's written exam: *Provided*, That this score may not
24 be less than 60 for Class B certification;

25 (3) For purposes of this section, "nationally recognized crane operator testing
26 organization" means an organization that has been accredited by a nationally recognized
27 accrediting agency as that term is defined in §21-3D-3 (a)(1)(A) of this code.

28 (d) On and after November 10, 2014:

29 (1) All individuals who operate cranes in the State of West Virginia which are governed by
30 the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States
31 Department of Labor, 29 C.F.R §1926.1400, Subpart CC, are required to hold a Class A
32 certification; and

33 (2) All individuals who operate cranes in the State of West Virginia which are not governed
34 by any provision of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States
35 Department of Labor are required to hold a Class B certification.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit crane operators be certified by additional nationally recognized accredited agencies. The bill changes the written exam requirements for Class A and Class B certifications.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.