

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF RECREATION EXAMINERS

Certification of Recreation Administrators and Recreation Supervisors

Proposed Readoption: N.J.A.C. 5:53

Authorized By: New Jersey Board of Recreation Examiners, George T. Smith, Chairman.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 13:1C-7.

Proposal Number: PRN 2008-189

Calendar: Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Submit written comments by August 15 , 2008 to:

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NEW JERSEY BOARD OF RECREATION EXAMINERS

by: _____

GEORGE T. SMITH, Chairman

The agency proposal follows.

Summary

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1C, the rules governing Certification of Recreation Administrators and Recreation Supervisors, N.J.A.C. 5:53, are scheduled to expire on June 13, 2009. The New Jersey Board of Recreation Examiners has reviewed these rules and finds that they continue to be necessary to implement P.L. 1966, c.192 (N.J.S.A. 13:1C-1 et seq.) and is therefore proposing that they be readopted without amendment.

The rules set forth educational and experience requirements for certification for recreation administrators and recreation supervisors. A recreation administrator is a person who is qualified to serve as the head, or assistant head, or a major recreational program. A recreation supervisor is a person qualified to plan, organize and supervise part of a program that is administered by a recreation administrator. The rules also include standards for continuing education programs, procedures for filing applications for initial certification and recertification, approval and denial of renewal and reinstatement of lapsed certifications.

As the Department has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

The purpose of the certification program is to provide assurance that persons responsible for providing park, recreation and leisure services to the public are properly qualified for such purpose. In the past 40 years, 1,295 people have received certification under P.L. 1996, c.192. The rules proposed for readoption were adopted in 1998 and included, for the first time, requirements for continuing education.

Economic Impact

The fee for the examination application is \$5.00. and the renewal fee is \$2.00 per year. Beyond that, there is a cost to applicants for any training programs that they may take in order to satisfy continuing education requirements. Providers of continuing education programs must pay any costs associated with providing such programs and depend upon fees received to cover their costs.

Federal Standards Statement

No Federal standards analysis is required because these rules are not being readopted under the authority of, or in order to implement, comply with or participate in any program established under, Federal law or a State law that incorporates or refers to Federal law, standards or requirements.

Jobs Impact

The Board does not expect that any jobs will be either created or lost as a result of the rules proposed for readoption

Agriculture Industry Impact

The Board does not anticipate any impact upon the agricultural industry as a result of the rules proposed for readoption.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

These rules establish uniform requirements for individuals seeking to obtain and retain an optional certification in the parks, recreation and leisure services field. Some of these individuals may use this certification in connection with employment by an entity qualifying as a “small business,” as defined in the New Jersey Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. However, the rules do not impose any reporting,

recordkeeping or compliance on any such employing “small businesses” themselves. The only “small businesses” that may be affected by compliance, reporting and recordkeeping requirements would be businesses providing continuing education programs. N.J.A.C. 5:53-1.6(b) sets forth what an organized continuing education experience entails, including requirements that a sponsor shall have an identifiable unit, group or individual with clearly defined responsibilities for the development and administration of learning activities; have a review process that ensures that this chapter’s CEU criteria are met; maintain individual participation records for seven years, with a copy provided on request to the Office of Recreation; and provide subject and participant-appropriate learning environments and support services. Courses may be provided by private businesses, as well as by colleges and universities, but those businesses would have to be held to the same standards in order to ensure that their programs are of comparable quality to those of colleges and universities. No professional services would be required in order to comply with these rules.

Smart Growth Impact

The Board does not anticipate any impact upon smart growth or the implementation of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan as a result of the readoption of these rules.

Full text of the rules proposed for readoption may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 5:53.