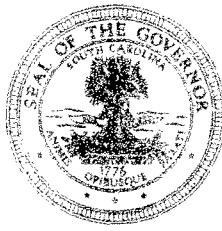


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[Veto of H. 3543, R-249]

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State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

May 14, 2008

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3543, R-249.

This legislation increases the time a person who holds a license issued by the Environmental Certification Board has to renew a lapsed license without penalty from 90 days to 365 days.

In many notable cases since the beginning of this Administration, we have rejected the creation of professional certification boards largely because they can, at times, serve as an obstacle to the free market. On every occasion, that notion has been rejected by the General Assembly.

However, we believe that hollowing out the enforcement mechanism within professional licensing is not the same thing as deregulating the industry. We feel that if the bill were enacted, hurdles would continue to exist for becoming either an Environmental Operator or a Well Driller in this state. Once you've made it in, however, the standards are, in essence, eliminated in a meaningful way. We believe it makes little sense to set up a licensing and certification standard and then make it in "name only."

Under this provision, a person can apply for reinstatement once every two years and may maintain a license indefinitely with no assurance of occupational ability by continued practice, examination, or continuing education. No other program administered by the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation allows licensees to renew who do not meet the qualifications for current licensure.

If the General Assembly considers a one year lapse of licensing would cause no substantial harm to the general public, then it should simply repeal the licensing requirement altogether. We would urge you to sustain this veto and send, instead, to my desk a bill that repeals the licensing requirements and deregulates this industry for all people, not just a select few.

For the above reasons, I am vetoing H. 3543, R-249.

Sincerely,

Mark Sanford