# **ARKANSAS CODE**

# Chapter 31.

# **Foresters.**

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## Subchapter 1. General Provisions

#### <u>17-31-101. Title and purpose</u>.

- (a) This chapter may be referred to and cited as the "State Board of Registration for Foresters Act."
- (b) The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that no person shall use in connection with the person's name, or otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description that the person is a forester, unless the person is registered as herein provided. **History.** Acts 1969, No. 535, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2401; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 1.

## 17-31-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Board" means the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters;
- (2)(A) "Forestry" means the science, the art, and the practice of managing, harvesting, and using the natural resources which occur on and in association with forestlands. It also means the care and management of forestlands for repeated crops of raw wood products, at annual or somewhat longer intervals, and for allied uses, such as watershed protection, recreation, wildlife, and grazing. However, nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any person, firm, partnership, or corporation from managing woodlands, forests, or trees, or from buying or selling timber, or from harvesting any products therefrom, or from performing tree planting, timber stand improvement, or other vendor services on any land, in any manner desired;
  (B) However, nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any person, firm, partnership, or corporation from managing woodlands, forests, or trees, or from buying or selling timber, or from harvesting any products thereform, or from performing tree planting, timber stand improvement, or other vendor services on any land, in any manner desired;
  (B) However, nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as preventing any person, firm, partnership, or corporation from managing woodlands, forests, or trees, or from buying or selling timber, or from harvesting any products

therefrom, or from performing tree planting, timber stand improvement, or other vendor services on any land, in any manner desired;

- (3)(A) "Practice of forestry" includes services for hire such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, or responsible supervision of any forestry activity in connection with public or private lands. The practice of forestry also includes teaching of forestry subjects at the college or university level and research in forestry, or a combination of teaching and research.
- (B) The practice of forestry shall not include services rendered for wages, salary, or payment received for the buying, selling, cutting, handling, or processing of timber, or wages, salary, or payment received for tree planting, timber stand improvement, or other vendor service activities on the forestlands of the owner thereof or on the forestlands of another; and
- (4) "Registered forester" means a person holding a valid certificate of registration issued pursuant to this chapter. History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2403; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 2.

## 17-31-103. Administrative procedure.

All proceedings of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall be governed by the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § <u>25-15-201</u> et seq., in addition to the requirements set forth in this chapter.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 23; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2423.

#### 17-31-104. Enforcement.

- (a) The Attorney General, all prosecuting attorneys, and duly constituted officers of the law of this state or political subdivision thereof shall be authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter and to prosecute any person violating them.
- (b) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters is charged with the duty of seeing that the provisions of this chapter are enforced.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 22; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2422; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 3.

#### 17-31-105. Violations - Penalties.

- (a) Any person required to be registered under this chapter shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if that person:
  - (1) Practices or offers to practice forestry without a valid certificate of registration issued pursuant to this chapter;
  - (2) Claims to be a forester certified under this chapter without being so certified;
  - (3) In any way tends to convey the impression that he or she is a forester certified under the provisions of this chapter without being so registered;
  - (4) Uses as his or her own the certificate of registration of another;
  - (5) Gives false or forged evidence to the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters;
  - (6) Uses an expired or revoked certificate; or
  - (7) Violates any provision of this chapter.
- (b) A Class A misdemeanor shall also be charged against a registered forester, subject to penalties as prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, who endorses any plan, specification, estimate, report, or map unless he or she actually prepared the plan, specification, estimate, report, or map or has been in actual charge or supervision of the preparation of it.

**History.** Acts 1969, No. 535, §§ 16, 22; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 71-2416, 71-2422; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 4; 2005, No. 1994, § 200.

#### Subchapter 2. The Arkansas State board of Registration for Foresters 17-31-201. Creation - Selection and compensation of members.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters is created to administer the provisions of this chapter.
- (b)(1) The board shall consist of six (6) members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Each member shall be a citizen of the United States of America and a registered voter and resident of the State of Arkansas.
  - (2)(A) Five (5) members of the board shall be foresters who have the qualifications required for registration under § <u>17-31-302</u> and who have been engaged in

forestry for at least twelve (12) years. Each member of the board appointed hereunder shall be registered and certified under this chapter.

(B)(i) One (1) member shall be selected from the forest products industry;

(ii) One (1) member shall be selected from the Arkansas Forestry Commission;

(iii) One (1) member shall be selected from an agency of the United States Government;

(iv) One (1) member shall be selected from the staff of the school of forestry; and

(v) One (1) member shall be selected from private forestry consultants.

(C) At least one (1) member shall be a graduate of an approved forestry school within the State of Arkansas.

- (3) One (1) member of the board shall not be actively engaged in or retired from the forestry profession. That member shall represent consumers. He or she shall be appointed from the state at large subject to confirmation by the Senate and shall be a full voting member but shall not participate in the grading of examinations.
- (c)(1) Appointments shall be for a term of five (5) years or, in the event of vacancies, for the period of the unexpired term of the vacancy being filled.
  - (2) The chairman of the Arkansas Division, Ouachita Society of American Foresters, duly authorized and acting on behalf of the Arkansas division, shall make nominations described in subdivision (b)(2) of this section within thirty (30) days from the receipt of notice from any person of the occurrence of a vacancy on the board.
- (d) Each member of the board shall receive a certificate of appointment from the Governor and before beginning the term of office shall file with the Secretary of State a written oath or affirmation relative to the faithful discharge of the official duty.
- (e) Each member of the board may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with § 25-16-901 et seq.

**History.** Acts 1969, No. 535, §§ 4-6; 1971, No. 122, § 1; 1977, No. 113, §§ 1-3; 1981, No. 717, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 6-617 - 6-619, 71-2404 - 71-2406; Acts 1997, No. 250, § 139; 1999, No. 993, § 5

# 17-31-202. Removal of members.

- (a) The Governor may remove any member of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters for misconduct, incompetency, or neglect of duty.
- (b) Before the Governor can remove a member for cause, he or she must serve the member with a written notice of the charge or charges against him or her and afford him or her an opportunity to be heard publicly on such charge or charges.
- (c)(1) If the member thus served does not request a public hearing within ten (10) days from being served, the Governor may proceed with the member's removal.
  - (2) If the member does request a public hearing, it shall be heard by a special committee composed of three (3) persons, not members of the board, namely:(A) The Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court or a substitute selected by the Chief Justice, who shall be the chair;

(B) The chair of the Arkansas Division, Ouachita Society of American Foresters; and

(C) A faculty member selected by the Arkansas Division, Ouachita Society of American Foresters from the school or departments of forestry in Arkansas.

- (d) The recommendation or decision of this committee shall be binding upon the Governor.
- (e) A copy of the charge or charges, a transcript of the record of the hearing, and a copy of the recommendation shall be filed with the Secretary of State. (f) If a board member is removed, his or her vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Governor as provided in § <u>17-31-201</u>. History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 7; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2407; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 6.

#### 17-31-203. Organization and Proceedings.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall elect annually from its membership the following officers:
  - (1) A chair;
  - (2) A vice chair; and
  - (3) A secretary.
- (b) A quorum of the board shall consist of not fewer than three (3) members, and no action shall be official without at least three (3) votes in accord.
- (c) The board shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings each year. Special meetings shall be held at such time and place as shall be specified by call of the chair or the secretary. Notice of all meetings shall be given in writing to each member by the secretary.
- (d) The board shall be domiciled and maintain its principal office in Little Rock and shall hold its meetings in its principal office, unless the chair finds a necessary reason for meeting elsewhere in the state.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 8; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2408; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 7.

#### 17-31-204. Powers.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall have the power to make, adopt, alter, amend, and promulgate all bylaws and rules consistent with the Constitution and laws of this state, which may be reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of the proceedings before it.
- (b) The board shall adopt and have an official seal.
- (c) Each member of the board shall have power to administer oaths. The board shall have power to subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books and papers pertinent to any investigation or hearing authorized by this chapter. Any employee of the board engaged in making any investigation shall have the power to administer oaths to and take depositions of persons pertaining to any investigation. The board may require any law enforcement officer of any state agency, the sheriffs of the various counties, or other law enforcement officers of any county or municipality to serve subpoenas and other process of the board. When county, municipal, or other local officers are required to serve subpoenas or other process of the board, they shall be paid the same fees by the board as are provided by laws for similar services under process issued by circuit courts.(d) If any person shall refuse to testify or produce any books, papers, or documents, the board may proceed by rule, in the circuit court

of the county where the person is domiciled or is engaged in business, to have the person adjudged guilty of contempt. In the event the rule is made absolute, the circuit court shall punish the person for contempt of court. The person shall be permitted to purge himself or herself of contempt by compliance with such order as the court may render.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 9; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2409.

# 17-31-205. Staff and employees.

The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters may appoint or employ an assistant secretary, executive secretary, treasurer, or other officers or employees who are not members of the board or of their immediate families, to whom clerical and administrative duties may be assigned and whose compensation shall be fixed by the board.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 8; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2408.

## 17-31-206. Compensation of witnesses.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters, if it deems necessary or upon advice of the Attorney General, may hire counsel and investigators and pay traveling expenses thereof for the investigation and prosecution of any violator of this chapter.
- (b) At its discretion, the board may pay any witness subpoenaed to appear before the board twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per diem when actually in attendance, including time spent in traveling not to exceed one (1) day to and one (1) day from the location of the board meeting. In addition, the board may reimburse any witness for actual traveling expenses when furnished proof of such expenses, including hotel or motel expenses, when the witness resides in a county other than the one in which the board is meeting.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 10; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2410.

## 17-31-207. Records and reports.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall keep a record of its proceedings and a register of all applications. The register shall show:
  - (1) The name, age, and residence of each applicant;
  - (2) The date of the application;
  - (3) The place of business of such an applicant;
  - (4) His or her education and other qualifications;
  - (5) Whether or not an examination was required
  - (6) Whether the applicant was rejected;
  - (7) Whether a certificate of registration was granted;
  - (8) The date of action of the board; and
  - (9) Such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board.
- (b) A roster showing the names and places of business of all foresters registered under this chapter shall be published by the secretary of the board during the month of April each year. Copies of this roster shall be mailed to each person so registered, placed on file with the Secretary of State, and furnished to the public on request.

- (c) The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board.
- (d) A transcript of the records of the board, certified by the secretary of the board under seal, shall be admissible in evidence with the same force and effect as if the originals were produced.
- (e) The board shall submit to the Governor an annual report of its transactions of the preceding year by April 1 and shall also transmit to the Governor a duly certified audit and financial statement prepared by a certified public accountant showing receipts and expenditures of the board.

**History.** Acts 1969, No. 535, §§ 11, 12; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 71-2411, 71-2412.

## 17-31-208. Disposition of funds.

- (a)(1) The Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall receive, disburse, and account for all income paid to or received by the board.
  - (2) The secretary shall institute a system of books and financial records satisfactory to the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration.
  - (3)(A) The secretary shall open an account in a bank in this state designated by the board as its official depository.

(B) The secretary and one (1) other officer of the board shall both sign all checks disbursing funds of the board.

(C) The secretary shall deposit all funds of the board which he or she receives in the bank designated as the official depository within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding holidays and Sundays, after he or she receives the funds.

- (b) All fines collected for the violation of any provisions of this chapter shall be paid over to the board to be used by it in the same manner as funds received for the issuance of licenses.
- (c) Under no circumstances shall the total amount of warrants issued by the board in payment of the expenses and compensation provided for in this chapter exceed the amount of the application, registration, and other fees collected as herein provided.
- (d) Any surplus funds at the end of the fiscal year may be retained by the board for future expenditures, and the board shall not be required to pay any surplus into the General Revenue Fund Account of the State Apportionment Fund.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, §§ 10, 22; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 71-2410, 71-2422; Acts 1997, No. 296, § 2.

# Subchapter 3. Certificate of Registration

## 17-31-301. Requirement - Exemptions.

- (a) Any person using in connection with the person's name or otherwise assuming, using, or advertising any title or description tending to convey the impression that the person is a forester engaged in the practice of forestry on private lands shall be registered as provided in this subchapter.
- (b) All foresters are eligible to apply for registration. However, nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring:

(1) Any person, employee of a firm, partnership, corporation, or department or agency of any branch of the government to be registered pursuant to this chapter in order to practice forestry on the person's or its own lands or manage the person's or its

own timberlands, woodlands, or forests or to supervise the removal of any products therefrom; or

(2) Any person to be registered pursuant to this chapter in order to perform duties as an employee of a registered forester acting under the supervision of the registered forester.

(c) Certificates of registration shall be issued only to individuals. No firm, company, partnership, or corporation may be registered under this chapter.

**History.** Acts 1969, No. 535, §§ 2, 18; A.S.A. 1947, §§ 71-2402, 71-2418; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 8.

# 17-31-302. Qualifications

Effective January 1, 2001, the following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters that an applicant is qualified to be registered as a forester:

- (1) A bachelor's or advanced degree in forestry from a college or university program accredited by the Society of American Foresters. The written examination on basic forestry subjects administered by the board shall be passed with a score of at least seventy percent (70%);
- (2) A bachelor's or advanced degree in forestry from a college or university program not accredited by the Society of American Foresters and, subject to graduation, three (3) years or more experience in forestry work of a nature satisfactory to the board. The written examination on basic forestry subjects administered by the board shall be passed with a score of at least seventy percent (70%);
- (3) A bachelor's degree in a natural resources-related field from a college or university program, including, but not limited to, wildlife management, with at least twenty (20) semester hours of forestry courses approved by the board and, subsequent to graduation, three (3) years' or more experience in forestry work of a nature satisfactory to the board. The written examination on basic forestry subjects administered by the board shall be passed with a score of at least seventy percent (70%);
- (4) A bachelor's degree not related to natural resources from a college or university program and, subsequent to graduation, six (6) years' or more experience in forestry work of a nature satisfactory to the board. The written examination on basic forestry subjects administered by the board shall be passed with a score of at least seventy percent (70%); and
- (5) A two-year associate's degree in forestry from a community college or junior college and, subsequent to graduation, six (6) years' or more experience in forestry work of a nature satisfactory to the board. The written examination on basic forestry subjects administered by the board shall be passed with a score of at least seventy percent (70%).

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 13; 1973, No. 245, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2413; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 9.

## 17-31-303. Application for registration.

(a) Application for registration shall:

(1) Be on forms prescribed and furnished by the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters;

(2) Contain statements under oath giving a detailed summary of the applicant's education and technical experience; and

(3) Contain the names and addresses of not fewer than five (5) references, of whom three (3) or more shall be foresters who have personal or professional knowledge of the applicant's forestry experience or his or her character and ability. Not more than one (1) such reference may come from persons employed by the same firm or individual as that of the applicant, and not more than one (1) reference may come from personnel of the school or college attended by the applicant.

- (b) The amount of the application fee and the registration fee shall be set annually by the board.
- (c) No person shall be eligible for registration as a forester who is not of good character and reputation.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 14; 1971, No. 122, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2414; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 10.

## 17-31-304. Examinations.

- (a) When written examinations are required, they shall be held at such times and places as the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall determine.
- (b) The scope of the examinations and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the board.
- (c) A candidate who fails an examination may apply for another examination at the expiration of six (6) months from the date of failure of the prior examination.
- (d) Subsequent examinations will be granted only upon payment of the prescribed fee. History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 15; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2415.

## 17-31-305. Issuance - Form - Evidence.

- (a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall issue a certificate of registration upon payment of a registration fee as provided for in this chapter to any applicant who, in the opinion of the board, has satisfactorily met all of the requirements of this chapter.
- (b) The certificate shall show the full name of the registrant, shall have a serial number, and shall be signed by the chair and the secretary of the board under the seal of the board.
- (c) The issuance of a certificate of registration by the board shall be prima facie evidence that the person named therein is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a registered forester while the certificate remains un-revoked or unexpired. History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 16; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2416.

# 17-31-306. Seal - Unlawful use.

(a) Each registrant may obtain a seal of a design authorized by the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters, bearing the registrant's name, serial number, and the legend "Registered Forester, Arkansas." All registrants engaged in the practice of forestry, either in a private professional practice or as an employee of an agency of the government or of a corporation, company, partnership, individual, or other private employer, shall endorse with his or her name and impress with his or her seal all plans, specifications, maps, reports, or documents which he or she prepares or which shall be prepared under his or her supervision.

(b) Anyone who endorses his or her name or impresses his or her seal upon any document, after the certificate of registration of the registrant named thereon has expired or has been revoked, shall be charged with a misdemeanor unless his or her certificate has been renewed or reissued.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 16; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2416.

#### **<u>17-31-307. Expiration and renewal.</u>**

- (a) Certificates of registration shall expire on December 31 of the year for which issued or renewed and shall become invalid thereafter unless renewed.
- (b) The Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters shall notify by letter to the last known address every person registered under this chapter of the date of the expiration of the certificate and the amount of the fee required for its renewal of one (1) year. Notice shall be mailed at least one (1) month in advance of the date of the expiration of such a certificate.
- (c)(1) The board shall require persons who are licensed under this subchapter to complete not fewer than six (6) hours of continuing forestry education during the previous year beginning January 1, 2001, as a condition of license renewal. Continuing forestry education shall be equivalent to the Society of American Foresters Category I for continuing forestry education which includes, but is not limited to, seminars, short courses, and workshops in forestry or a related subject matter as approved by the board.

(2) Credit accrues at a rate of one (1) hour for each hour of actual contact. Three (3) hours of tours or field sessions equal one (1) contact hour.

(3) The board may approve continuing forestry education courses offered by professional organizations, institutions of higher learning, qualified individuals, or specialty societies. The board may approve credit hours for meetings, presentations, or other activities considered by the board to be a form of continuing forestry education.

(4) A successful applicant for licensure under this subchapter shall have two (2) years from the date the license is issued to complete the first six (6) hours of continuing forestry education. After two (2) years, the registered forester shall complete the continuing forestry education requirements as required by this subsection.

- (d) The board may waive the continuing forestry education requirements in cases of hardship, illness, or retirement from active forestry practice.
- (e) The board may promulgate rules and regulations to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.
- (f) Renewal of a certificate of registration shall be for an annual fee set annually by the board.
- (g) The failure on the part of any registrant to renew the certificate annually in the month of December as required in this section shall not deprive the person of the right of renewal, but the fee to be paid for the renewal of a certificate after December 31 shall be increased ten percent (10%) for each month or fraction of a month that payment of renewal is delayed. However, the maximum fee for delayed renewal shall not exceed twice the annual renewal fee.

#### 17-31-308. Reciprocity.

Upon application therefor and the payment of a fee set by the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters, the board may issue a certificate of registration as a registered forester in Arkansas to any qualified person of any state of the United States or its possessions, or Canada, provided that:

(1) The person is a legally registered forester or the equivalent in the person's own state or province and has submitted evidence satisfactory to the board that the person is so registered and that the requirements therein are substantially equivalent to the requirements of registration under this chapter; and

(2) The state in which the person is so registered will accept the certificates of registration issued by the board on a reciprocal basis.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 19; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2419; Acts 1999, No. 993, § 12.

#### 17-31-309. Revocation - Grounds - Proceedings.

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- a) The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters may receive and investigate complaints against registered foresters and make findings thereon.
- (b) The board may revoke the certificate of any registered forester who has been convicted of a felony or who is found guilty by the board of any fraud, deceit, gross negligence, misrepresentation, willful violation of contract, misconduct, or gross incompetence. The board shall investigate such charges.
- (c) All charges, unless dismissed by the board as unfounded or trivial, shall be heard by the board within three (3) months after the date on which they are presented to the board.
- (d) Before the board shall revoke the certificate of any registered forester, the board shall conduct a hearing, the time and place for which shall be fixed by the board. A copy of the charges, together with a notice of the time and place of hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed by registered letter to the last known address of the registered forester at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the hearing.
- (e) At any hearing, the accused registered forester shall have the right to appear personally and, by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses appearing against him and her and to produce evidence and witnesses in his or her own defense.
- (f) A written record, including the testimony of all witnesses, shall be made and filed by the secretary.
- (g) If the accused registered forester is found guilty of the charges made against him or her, the board shall revoke his or her certificate of registration.
- (h) A registered forester whose certificate of registration has been revoked may apply for a review of the proceedings of the board by any court of competent jurisdiction within sixty (60) days following the action of the board. The petition to the circuit court shall set out in detail what adverse action of the board was erroneous. After citation of the board as provided by law and full hearing, the court shall make such decree sustaining or reversing the action of the board as may seem just and proper.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 20; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2420.

#### 17-31-310. Re-issuance.

- (a) A new certificate of registration to replace any revoked, lost, destroyed, or mutilated certificate may be issued, subject to the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters, and for a charge fixed by the board.
- (b) The board may also reissue a certificate of registration to any person whose certificate has been revoked if:

(1) Four (4) or more members of the board vote in favor of re-issuance; and

(2) The person presents satisfactory assurances that the grounds which caused the certificate to be revoked will not occur again and that the person is otherwise qualified to be registered hereunder.

History. Acts 1969, No. 535, § 21; A.S.A. 1947, § 71-2421.