

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE,
CHAPTER 250-4 *APPRENTICESHIP*,
RULE 250-4-.04 *FEES AND RENEWAL*.
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service Rules, Chapter 250-4, *Apprenticeship*, Rule 250-4-.04 *Fees and Renewal*. (hereinafter "proposed rule amendments"). The proposed rule amendments include revisions to Rule 250-4-.04. The Board voted to post this notice of adoption and hearing at its board meeting on September 15, 2009.

The proposed rule amendments eliminate language regarding applicants paying a reduced fee when initial apprenticeship registration is granted in the last year of a licensing cycle. The proposed rule amendments also clarify that apprentices may not work if their registration is not renewed by the expiration date, and apprenticeship hours will not be credited for apprentices whose licenses are not renewed by the expiration date.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service's web page at <http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/funeral/>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. on December 8, 2009 at the office of the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendments. At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information for the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on December 1, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards

Division, Georgia State Board of Funeral Service, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 478-314-9128.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered for adoption by the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service at its meeting on November 10, 2009 scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia. The Georgia State Board of Funeral Service has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendments to Rule 250-4-.04 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(g); 43-18-50; 43-18-51; 43-18-52; and 43-18-54.

The Board will consider at its meeting on December 8, 2009 whether the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule amendment imposes excessive regulatory costs on any licensee or entity and whether any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment could be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(g); 43-18-50; 43-18-51; 43-18-52; and 43-18-54.

Additionally, at its meeting on December 8, 2009, the Board will consider whether it is legal or feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(g); 43-18-50; 43-18-51; 43-18-52; and 43-18-54 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The Board will consider whether the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule amendment will impact every licensee in the same manner when small businesses are independently owned and operated and not dominant in the field of funeral service.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 23rd day of October, 2009.

Randall D. Vaughn
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: October 23, 2009

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE RULES,
CHAPTER 250-4 *APPRENTICESHIP*, RULE 250-4-.04 *FEES AND RENEWAL*.

Rule 250-4-.04 Fees and Renewal. is hereby proposed for amendment and adoption as amended.

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule amendments is to eliminate language regarding applicants paying a reduced fee when initial apprenticeship registration is granted in the last year of a licensing cycle. The proposed rule amendments also clarify that apprentices may not work if their registration is not renewed by the expiration date, and apprenticeship hours will not be credited for apprentices whose licenses are not renewed by the expiration date.

Main Features: The main features of the proposed amendments to the rule are to eliminate the provision of a reduced registration fee when the initial apprenticeship registration is granted in the last year of a licensing cycle. The proposed amendments also expressly state that an apprentice whose registration has lapsed may not continue to practice and any hours of apprenticeship after the expiration of the registration will not be credited toward the completion of the apprenticeship.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND
THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE,
CHAPTER 250-4 *APPRENTICESHIP*, RULE 250-4-.04 *FEES AND RENEWAL*.

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

250-4-.04 Fees and Renewal.

(1) Fees. Each apprenticeship registration expires on March 31 of even-numbered years. ~~An initial registration filed during the period between April 1 of even-numbered years and March 31 of the following year, inclusive, shall require full payment of the registration fee. An initial registration filed during the period between April 1 of odd-numbered years and March 31 of the following year, inclusive, shall require one-half that fee.~~ Refer to the Fee Schedule for the appropriate fee for registration application.

(2) Renewal. An apprenticeship registration may be renewed for a two-year period and requires submission of an application and fee, due and payable by March 31 of even-numbered years. An apprenticeship registration shall not be renewed more than two times.

(3) Late Renewal with Penalty. An expired registration may be renewed between April 1 and September 30 of the renewal year, inclusive, provided that the applicant for renewal submits a penalty fee in addition to the regular renewal fee. The applicant for renewal may not practice as an apprentice during the late renewal period, nor will any hours be credited during the late renewal period.

(4) Revocation. A registration that is not renewed prior to April 30 of the renewal year shall result in revocation of the registration. Any hours served after revocation and prior to reinstatement may not be counted toward the 3120 hour requirement for an apprenticeship.

(5) Reinstatement. An apprentice whose registration has been revoked may, within one year of expiration of the penalty period, submit an application and fee for reinstatement. The Board reserves the right to refuse to reinstate a registration and shall not reinstate a registration more than twice.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(g); 43-18-50; 43-18-51; 43-18-52; and 43-18-54.