

Office of Regulatory Management  
Economic Review Form

<b>Agency name</b>	Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)</b>	18 VAC 145-40
<b>VAC Chapter title(s)</b>	Regulations Governing Certified Professional Wetland Delineators
<b>Action title</b>	HB 1182 Amendment
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	July 11, 2024
<b>Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)</b>	Exempt Final (Action 6527 / Stage 10414)

**Cost Benefit Analysis**

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

**Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)**

<p>(1) Direct &amp; Indirect Costs &amp; Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p>This action amends the Regulations Governing Certified Professional Wetland Delineators to conform to changes resulting from the enactment of Chapter 545 of the 2024 Acts of Assembly.</p> <p>The legislation replaces the requirement that an applicant with a bachelor's degree in a relevant field have four years of relevant experience to be certified as a professional wetland delineator with three years of such experience. For applicants seeking certification through experience, the legislation reduces to three years the required experience that the applicant must have in wetland science research or as a teacher of wetlands curriculum in an accredited institution of higher education in order to be certified.</p> <p>This action amends 18VAC145-30-40 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce from four (4) years to three (3) years the amount of required experience in wetland delineation for individuals seeking certification as a wetland delineator who hold a bachelor's degree and have completed a Board-approved course of instruction in state and federal wetland delineation methods; and</li> <li>• Reduce from four (4) years to three (3) years the amount of required experience for individuals seeking certification as a wetland delineator based on experience in wetland science research or as a teacher of a wetlands curriculum in an accredited institution of higher education.</li> </ul> <p>Direct Costs: There are no new monetizable direct costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no new monetizable indirect costs associated with this change.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no new monetizable direct benefits associated with this change.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no new monetizable indirect benefits associated with this change.</p>	
<p>(2) Present Monetized Values</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Costs</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</p>

	(a) \$0	(b) \$0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	\$0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>The statutory change allows individuals seeking to qualify for the wetland delineator certification examination on the basis of experience in wetland delineation or wetland science research or as a teacher of a wetlands curriculum in an accredited institution of higher education to qualify with a reduced experience requirement. The regulatory change conforms the regulation to reflect the minimum requirements currently in the statute.</p> <p>There are no new non-monetizable costs or benefits associated with this change.</p>	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: There are no new monetizable direct costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no new monetizable indirect costs associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no new monetizable direct benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no new monetizable indirect benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) \$0	(b) \$0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	\$0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no new non-monetizable costs or benefits associated with maintaining the status quo.	

(5) Information Sources	N/A
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**Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Refer to Box #4.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	This regulatory change is the result of a legislative change. The regulatory change amends certain experience requirements to qualify for the wetland delineator certification to conform the regulation to the legislative change. No alternatives were considered.	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Impact on Local Partners**

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 2: Impact on Local Partners**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no anticipated costs or benefits to local partners as a result of the regulatory change.	

(4) Assistance	N/A
(5) Information Sources	N/A

**Impacts on Families**

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 3: Impact on Families**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are no anticipated costs or benefits to families as a result of the regulatory change.	
(4) Information Sources	N/A	

**Impacts on Small Businesses**

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	See Box #3.	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A

(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Professional wetland delineator certifications are issued to individuals and not firms. However, many certified professional wetland delineators may be owners or employees of firms which fall within the meaning of “small business” as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia.</p> <p>As noted in Table 1(a), this regulatory action changes certain experience requirements for examination qualification to conform to the current requirements in statute. There are no new costs or benefits associated with the change.</p>
(4) Alternatives	N/A
(5) Information Sources	N/A

**Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements**

**Table 5: Regulatory Reduction**

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

*Change in Regulatory Requirements*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Total Net Change in Requirements
30-40	(M/A):	0	0	0	0
	(D/A):	0	0	0	0
	(M/R):	3	0	0	0
	(D/R):	3	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total of Changes in Requirements:</b>					<b>(M/A): 0</b> <b>(D/A): 0</b> <b>(M/R): 0</b> <b>(D/R): 0</b>

**Key:**

*Please use the following coding if change is mandatory or discretionary and whether it affects externally regulated parties or only the agency itself:*

**(M/A):** Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting the agency itself

**(D/A):** Discretionary requirements affecting agency itself

**(M/R):** Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting external parties, including other agencies

**(D/R):** Discretionary requirements affecting external parties, including other agencies

*Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)*

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden
30-40	The change reduces the minimum number of years of required experience in wetland delineation for individuals seeking certification as a wetland delineator who hold a	The change reduces the experience requirement by 25%.

	<p>bachelor's degree and have completed a Board-approved course of instruction in state and federal wetland delineation methods.</p> <p>The change reduces the experience requirement in the regulation from four (4) years to three (3) years.</p>	
30-40	<p>The change reduces the minimum number of years of required experience for individuals seeking certification as a wetland delineator based on experience in wetland science research or as a teacher of a wetlands curriculum in an accredited institution of higher education.</p> <p>The change reduces the experience requirement in the regulation from four (4) years to three (3) years.</p>	<p>The change reduces the experience requirement by 25%.</p>

*Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)*

<b>Title of Guidance Document</b>	<b>Original Word Count</b>	<b>New Word Count</b>	<b>Net Change in Word Count</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*If the agency is modifying a guidance document that has regulatory requirements, it should report any change in requirements in the appropriate chart(s).