

April 13, 2009

**H 1501. AMEND REQS FOR COMITY APPLICANTS/NC STATE BAR.** Filed 4/9/09.

*AMENDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMITY UNDER THE LAWS PERTAINING TO THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR.*

Enacts new GS 84-24.1 to provide that, if all other qualifications for comity eligibility are met, the Board of Law Examiners (Board) are required to examine any short-term hiatus from an applicant's full time practice of law, which is attributable to verifiable caregiving responsibilities, by measuring and weighing the totality of circumstances and the applicant's qualifications.

If an applicant, due to caregiving has not practiced law full time for a certain period of time, that period is deemed a short-term hiatus and excusable if the applicant has otherwise been in active full-time practice for a minimum of double the period of non-full-time work. Provides for the number of years of practice required for hiatus periods ranging from three to eight years.

If all other qualifications for comity eligibility are met by an applicant with a minimum of six years continuous active experience, the Board, after examining the totality of circumstances and applicant's qualifications, must allow any short-term hiatus attributable to verifiable caregiving responsibilities to be remedied by requiring (1) that the applicant complete continuing legal education (CLE), with the CLE hours set by the Board after taking into account the totality of circumstances and the applicant's qualifications or (2) requiring a period of 24 months of part-time practice or 12 months of full-time practice under the direct supervision of a licensed member of the North Carolina bar in good standing. Defines *full time work* as a minimum of 30 hours a week for the purposes of determining comity under this statute.

Includes whereas clauses.

**Intro. by Jones.**

GS 84