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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	18 VAC 145-20
VAC Chapter title(s)	Professional Soil Scientists Regulations
Action title	HB 1254 Amendment (Soil Scientists Continuing Education)
Final agency action date	June 3, 2026
Date this document prepared	June 18, 2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

This action amends the Professional Soil Scientists Regulations to conform to changes resulting from the enactment of [Chapter 460](#) of the 2026 Acts of Assembly.

The legislation amends multiple statutes for regulatory boards under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). In relation to the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists (the Board), the amendment changes the requirement for the Board to establish in regulation that professional soil scientists must complete eight contact hours of continuing education (CE) per year. The amendment changes the requirement from eight contact hours per year to eight hours per renewal cycle.

The regulatory amendment makes changes to the regulation to conform applicable provisions of the regulation to the legislation. The current requirement in 18VAC145-20-145 for licensees to complete eight hours of CE per year is revised to be eight hours of CE per renewal cycle. As a result of the change, licensees will only need to complete eight hours of continuing education during a two-year license term.

This action is exempt from the Administrative Process Act under § 2.2-4006(A)(4)(a) of the Code of Virginia, which states, in part:

A. The following agency actions otherwise subject to this chapter and § 2.2-4103 of the Virginia Register Act shall be exempted from the operation of this article:

4. Regulations that are:

a. Necessary to conform to changes in Virginia statutory law or the appropriation act where no agency discretion is involved.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

In April 2026, the Governor approved [Chapter 460](#) (HB 1254) of the 2026 Acts of Assembly which made amendments to multiple DPOR-related statutes, including Article 2 of Chapter 22 (§ 54.1-2201 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. The legislation amends § 54.1-2205 of the Code of Virginia, which provides for initial licensure and continuing education requirements for licensed professional soil scientists. The legislation will become effective on July 1, 2026.

The purpose of this regulatory change is to implement and comply with changes to the Code of Virginia resulting from the passage of HB 1254 during the 2026 General Assembly Session.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has "adopted final amendments" to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, "On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)]."

On June 3, 2026, the Board adopted final amendments to the Professional Soil Scientists Regulations.