

# EXTENSION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency was declared in Ohio on March 9, 2020 as per Executive Order 2020-01D. It provided a number of emergency provisions designed to offer relief to Ohioans. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently signed into law House Bill 404 which became effective November 23, 2020.

This bill includes a clause that extends a number of coronavirus-related emergency provision expiration dates that were set to expire December 31, 2020, which coincides with the end of our current compliance period. Our compliance periods have not changed, only a few expiration dates.

The bill affects the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors in two specific areas: public meetings and license extensions.

## ELECTRONIC MEETINGS EXTENDED TO JULY 1, 2021

Pursuant to law, all meetings of any public body are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times. A provision of the bill extends the date by which these meetings may be held electronically.

- **Board meetings and hearings may be conducted by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology until July 1, 2021.**

## LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE EXTENDED TO JULY 1, 2021

Pursuant to law, every license and permit issued by the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors expires on the last day of the Compliance Period (12-31-2020). A provision of the bill extends the expiration date of all licenses.

- **All individual and facility licenses and permits issued January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020 will remain valid until July 1, 2021.**
- **Licenses and permits must now be renewed on or before July 1, 2021, if not already renewed.**

### Embalmer/Funeral Director Licenses and Continuing Education Requirements

Compliance with the requirement of obtaining 18 hours of continuing education credits is a prerequisite for license renewal. *A provision of the bill extends the date to comply with this requirement.*

- **Continuing education program hours must now be earned on or before July 1, 2021, if not already earned.**

### CROP Permits and Continuing Education Requirements

Compliance with the requirement to obtain a 2-hour course in Laws and Rules relevant to Ohio and specific to crematory operation is a prerequisite for renewal of a crematory operator permit. *A provision of the bill extends the date to comply with this requirement.*

- **Completion of a two-hour course must now be completed on or before July 1, 2021, if not already completed.**

### Requests for Continuing Education Waivers

The board may, in individual cases involving physical disability or illness as certified by a physician, or good cause shown, grant waivers of the minimum education requirements. The application for a waiver shall be submitted no later than four months prior to the end of any compliance period. *A provision of the bill extends the date to apply for a Medical/Undue Hardship Waiver.*

- **Application for a waiver of the minimum educational requirements must now be submitted on or before February 28, 2021, if not already submitted.**

As of October 15, 2020, all continuing education credits could be acquired through approved webinars and online programs for the compliance period during which the State of Emergency was declared. Our current compliance period ends December 31, 2020. As of this writing, this provision has not been extended. Our new compliance period begins January 1, 2021 and ends December 31, 2022.

Persons issued an initial embalmer or funeral director license between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020 are not required to satisfy the continuing education requirements as a condition of renewal of the license.

Completion of the CROP Permit two-hour Laws & Rules course may also count toward the continuing education requirements for renewal of an embalmer and/or funeral director license.

A person holding a funeral director courtesy card permit is not required to satisfy the continuing education requirements as a condition of renewal of the permit.

## **IMPORTANT**

**All licensees are still able to renew by the regularly scheduled deadline.**

Although the deadline to renew a license has been extended, the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors encourages you to move forward with renewal as soon as possible. Maintenance of your license is an important professional responsibility.

**A few benefits to doing so are:**

1. There is no risk of forgetting to renew later resulting in an expired license and having to pay an additional late renewal fee.
2. Staying on the same renewal cycle timeline you are used to. Whether you renew now or at a later date (up to July 1, 2021) the next license expiration date will not change.
3. Please log into the Ohio eLicense Center at [https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh\\_communitieslogin](https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_communitieslogin) to renew your license. Preferred browser is Google Chrome.

Please feel free to contact us at [info@funeral.ohio.gov](mailto:info@funeral.ohio.gov) if you have any questions or need any assistance during the renewal process.