



**Am. H.B. 87**

123rd General Assembly  
(As Passed by the House)

Reps. Bateman, Thomas, Olman

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Prohibits a person from assuming or using certain titles or abbreviations relating to the practice of industrial hygiene or the practice of occupational safety unless the person possesses the appropriate specified certification.
- Makes the assumption or use of a restricted title or abbreviation without possessing the appropriate specified certification a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- Generally restricts political subdivisions from regulating persons engaged in the practice of industrial hygiene and the practice of occupational safety if those persons possess the appropriate specified certification.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Overview**

The bill prohibits a person from using certain titles and abbreviations relating to the practice of industrial hygiene and the practice of occupational safety, which the bill defines, unless the person possesses the appropriate certification from a national board as specified by the bill.

**Title protection**

The bill prohibits any person from assuming or using any of the following titles, designations, or abbreviations without possessing the applicable certification required under the bill:

(1) The title or designation "certified industrial hygienist," "industrial hygienist in training," "certified safety professional," or "associate safety professional."

(2) Any of the abbreviations "CIH," "IHIT," "CSP," or "ASP." Respectively, these abbreviations stand for "certified industrial hygienist," "industrial hygienist in training," "certified safety professional," and "associate safety professional."

(3) Any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviation, sign, card, or device indicating that the person is qualified to hold the person's self out as one of those persons described in (1) or (2) above. (Sec. 4777.02.)

A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree (sec. 4777.99). A misdemeanor of the fourth degree carries a maximum penalty of 30 days imprisonment, a \$250 fine, or both (sec. 2929.21, not in the bill).

### **Exceptions**

The bill specifies that its provisions do not apply to any of the following:

(1) A person working as an apprentice under the supervision of a certified industrial hygienist, industrial hygienist in training, certified safety professional, or associate safety professional.

(2) A person engaging in the supervised practice of industrial hygiene or the practice of occupational safety through a course of study in that practice.

(3) A person who holds a certification, registration, or license under another section of the Revised Code if that person does not violate the title protection provision described above.

(4) A person engaging in activities within the scope of the practice of industrial hygiene or the practice of occupational safety who does not meet the certification requirements as specified by the bill (see "**Qualifications for titled practice**") if that person does not violate the title protection provision described above. (Sec. 4777.04.)

## **Qualifications for titled practice**

### **The practice of industrial hygiene**

The bill defines "the practice of industrial hygiene" as the anticipation, prevention, recognition, evaluation, elimination, and control of environmental, biological, chemical, physical, and ergonomic factors and stresses arising in or from the workplace that may cause sickness, impaired health and well-being, or significant discomfort among workers or the general public. (Sec. 4777.01(A).)

In order to engage in the practice of industrial hygiene as a *certified industrial hygienist* or an *industrial hygienist in training*, a person must possess a valid, unexpired certification from the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. (Secs. 4777.01(B) and (C) and 4777.03(A) and (B).)

### **The practice of occupational safety**

The bill defines "the practice of occupational safety" as the preservation of human and material resources through the systematic application of education, chemistry, physics, biological, ergonomic, psychological, physiological, and management principles for anticipating, identifying, and evaluating hazardous systems, conditions, and practices in the workplace and developing, implementing and administering programs to alleviate those hazards. (Sec. 4777.01(D).)

To engage in the practice of occupational safety under the bill as a *certified safety professional* or *associate safety professional*, a person must possess a valid, unexpired certification from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. (Secs. 4777.01(E) and (F) and 4777.03(C) and (D).)

### **Certain regulations by political subdivisions prohibited**

The bill prohibits political subdivisions from prohibiting or restricting the practice of industrial hygiene or the practice of occupational safety by individuals who meet the certification requirements specified in the bill, except where permitted to do so by another section of the Revised Code to regulate a specific activity that falls within the scope of the practice of industrial hygiene or the practice of occupational safety (sec. 4777.05).

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-28-99	p. 117
Reported, H. Commerce & Labor	02-29-99	p. 230
Passed House (95-0)	03-17-99	p. 311

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