

**RULES  
OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS**

**CHAPTER 0780-05-06  
SOIL SCIENTISTS**

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**0780-05-06-.01 PURPOSE.** The rules in this chapter implement the Tennessee Soil Scientist Licensure Act of 2009, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, Chapter 18.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.03 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.**

- (1) Any person who seeks to be licensed as a professional soil scientist shall complete an application on a form prescribed by the commissioner and submit such application to the commissioner accompanied by the required fee and additional documentation.
- (2) Applications for licensure are available upon request from the commissioner.
- (3) Any application submitted which is deficient or fails to meet all application requirements for licensure will be returned to the applicant with written notification of the nature of the deficiencies and will be placed in "pending" status. Satisfactory completion of application must be made within sixty (60) days from the date of initial application. If satisfactory completion is not made within this period the application will be deemed denied; however, the applicant may submit a new application and fee.
- (4) Any application submitted may be withdrawn; however, any submitted application fee will not be refunded.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.04 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

- (1) Any person who desires to obtain a license as a professional soil scientist shall submit an application to the commissioner, along with the required application fee and all required documentation, including proof that the applicant:

(Rule 0780-05-06-.04, continued)

- (a) Has graduated from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor of Science degree or higher in soils, agronomy or a closely related field. The applicant shall have successfully completed a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours of course work in soil science;
- (b) Has at least three (3) years of soil science professional experience. Any combination of the following kinds of education and experience qualify towards accumulating the required (3) years:
  - 1. Masters of science degree in soils, agronomy or a closely related field and two (2) years of professional experience;
  - 2. Doctorate degree in soils, agronomy or a closely related field and one (1) year of professional experience; or,
  - 3. Each year of teaching or soil science research by persons teaching upper-level soil science courses at the college or university levels; provided, that such teaching or research can be demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to a year of professional experience.
- (c) Has passed the fundamentals and professional practice soil science examinations administered by the Council of Soil Science Examiners (CSSE).

The commissioner shall waive the examination requirement for licensure as a soil scientist for an applicant who makes written application to the commissioner not later than July 1, 2011 and who otherwise meets the requirements of this rule.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-208 and 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.05 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.06 RETIRED OR INACTIVE STATUS.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.07 FEES.**

- (1) Nonrefundable application fee ..... \$100.00
- (2) The examination fee will be set by the entity designated by the State to administer the examination.
- (3) Initial license and renewal fee for active license ..... \$400.00
- (4) Renewal fee for inactive license..... \$200.00
- (5) Inactive or retirement status fee..... \$25.00

(Rule 0780-05-06-.07, continued)

- (6) Reinstatement to active status fee ..... \$25.00
- (7) The late renewal penalty fee is \$25.00 per month for each month or fraction of a month that a renewal is late.
- (8) Duplicate license fee because license is lost, destroyed, or mutilated. \$25.00

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-209 and 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.08 SEALS.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.09 CIVIL PENALTIES.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.10 CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.11 CONTINUING EDUCATION.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.

**0780-05-06-.12 RECIPROCITY.**

Reserved.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-211. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed April 20, 2011; effective July 19, 2011.