

History of the American Academy of Sanitarians

Beginnings

The history of the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS) began in November 1956, when the Sanitarians Joint Council (SJC) had its organizational meeting at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The professionals who made up the SJC were representatives from three associations whose membership embraced the majority of sanitarians in the country. These organizations were: American Public Health Association (APHA), the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians (IAMFES); later called the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), and, the National Association of Sanitarians (NAS); who later became the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

The SJC Charter dated November 14, 1954, had five basic objectives:

1. To develop a uniform definition for “sanitarian”;
2. To promote the professional status of the sanitarian;
3. To develop a Sanitarian Specialty Board:
4. To draft a recommended uniform law for the registration of sanitarians, and,
5. The development and promotion for the educational and other qualifications for the sanitarian profession.

These five objectives formed the basis for the organization which later became the American Academy of Sanitarians.

In July 1961 the SJC completed a recommended plan for the certification of sanitarians; a copy of which is appended. The plan was subsequently accepted by all three organizations whose members formed the SJC. On October 5, 1964, the council embraced the first four objectives in the SJC Charter and created the American Inter-Society Board for the Certification of Sanitarians. At the October 20, 1965 meeting of the Board, it was decided to change the name of the organization to the American Intersociety Academy for the Certification of Sanitarians.

The Academy was formally incorporated in the State of Indiana on March 14, 1966.



Financial assistance for the newly-formed Academy came from the three organizations that made up the original SJC. Each organization gave the Academy a \$1,000 interest-free loan that was paid back in little over two years.

The twelve founding members of the newly formed Academy Board were: Harold S. Adams, A. Harry Bliss, Emil T. Chanlett, E.E. Diddams, B. Russell Franklin, Larry J. Gordon, William V. Hickey, William C. Miller, Jr., A. Faegin Parrish, Verne C. Reiersen, Edwin L. Ruppert and Darold W. Taylor.

The category of “Founder Diplomate” was incorporated in the original bylaws for those professional sanitarians that had at least 12 years experience in environmental health; five of which were in an administrative or supervisory position, and, who met all the other membership requirements. In addition, their application had to be received before December 30, 1968. In 1975 the AIACS underwent yet another name change to simplify its recognition as a professional group, namely: the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS).

Purpose of the Academy

The primary purpose of the Academy is professional recognition. Its aim is to improve the environmental health of people through certification by recognizing those sanitarians that have excelled in their profession and demonstrated outstanding knowledge, skills and attributes to achieve this goal. The Academy also actively promotes education through its long-standing commitment to scholarship and mentoring through its professional advancement initiatives.

The Academy invites and encourages sanitarians with qualities of outstanding competence and leadership to become certified As Diplomates. Certification as a Diplomate is awarded only after careful scrutiny of the applicant by a Board of his or her peers. The certification process is in itself unique. It differentiates a professional sanitarian who is registered by examination and one who is qualified under demanding standards such as academic achievement, publication, credentialing and the demonstration of leadership. Becoming a Diplomate in the Academy denotes a high standard of professionalism with marked distinction, and a record of accomplishment in the field of environmental health. It denotes professional status and gives prestige to the holders of the Diplomate certification. Since its inception, over 550 professional sanitarians were awarded Diplomate status in the Academy.

The Board issues a suitable diploma of certification to all applicants who have satisfactorily passed the prescribed examinations; who have met the prescribed standards and who have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board their good moral character and high ethical and professional standing.

In 1999, the Academy created the certification of a Diplomate Laureate to recognize Diplomates who have demonstrated exceptional professional growth, accomplishment and leadership in the sanitarian profession. The Laureate must demonstrate longevity in the profession, in addition to meeting six additional criteria that include extraordinary accomplishments in the field of environmental health and the professional practice as a sanitarian. The Academy also awards Diplomate Emeritus certification to those Diplomates who have retired after an exceptional career and, Honorary Diplomate to those individuals who have advanced the sanitarian profession and the field of public health, but are not sanitarians themselves.

Wagner Award

In 1981 the Academy initiated its Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award to annually provide recognition to a Diplomate who has attained a status of distinction as a professional. The Award is made possible through the devotion and generosity of Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.), Carruth J. Wagner, M.D., Public Health Service, in memory of his brother. It reflects Dr. Wagner's deep respect and admiration for the professional sanitarian.

PROPOSED MODEL ACT*

Registration of Sanitarians

An act relating to the preservation and protection of the public health and providing for the registration of Sanitarians and Sanitarians-in-training; providing for the establishment of a Board of Registration and prescribing its powers, duties and functions; dealing with qualifications, appointment, removal, compensation, and expenses of members thereof; providing for qualifications, examinations, and registration of Sanitarians and Sanitarians-in-training; and for issuance, renewal, and reinstatement of certificates of registration; and fixing fees therefore; authorizing revocation of certificates; providing for expenditures of funds collected under provision of this act; fixing purposes for which such funds may be used; and providing a penalty.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of

Section 1. State Board of Registration: There is hereby created a Board of Registration to register qualified sanitarians whose duties in public health and environmental sanitation require a knowledge of physical, biological, and sanitary sciences and whose professional pursuits and duties are necessary to the promotion of life, health, and prosperity of the State's citizens.

Section 2. Definitions: The words and phrases defined below shall, when used in this Act, have the following meaning unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (a) "Board"—means the Board of Registration for Sanitarians, hereby created.
- (b) "Sanitarian"—is a person who by education and experience in the physical, biological, and sanitary sciences, is qualified to carry out educational, investigational and technical duties in the field of sanitation.
- (c) "Registered Sanitarian"—is a sanitarian registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (d) "Sanitarian-in-Training"—is a person registered as a sanitarian-in-training under the provisions of this Act.
- (e) "Certificate of Registration"—is a document issued as evidence of registration and qualification to practice as a sanitarian or a sanitarian-in-training under this Act, and bearing the designation "Registered Sanitarian", or "Sanitarian-in-Training", and showing the name of the person, date of issue, serial number, seal, and signatures of the members of the Board hereby authorized to grant such certificates.

Section 3. Qualifications for Registration as a Sanitarian: Any person desiring to be registered as a sanitarian may make application to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board. The Board shall accept such application when submitted if accompanied by the required fees. Persons meeting the following qualifications shall be eligible for registration under this Act:

* Prepared by the Sanitarians Joint Council; approved by it June 18, 1960; and forwarded to the American Public Health Association, the National Association of Sanitarians, and the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians, Inc. with the Council's recommendation that it be endorsed by these Associations.

- (a) Graduate with a baccalaureate, or higher degree from an accredited college or university who has satisfactorily completed at least 45 quarter hours, or 30 semester hours, of academic work in the basic natural sciences; employed full time as a sanitarian for a period not less than two years; and having passed an examination given and conducted by the Board under the provisions of this Act; provided, that persons holding a degree higher than a baccalaureate degree and who has satisfactorily completed at least 45 quarter hours, or 30 semester hours, of academic work in the basic natural sciences may qualify when employed as a sanitarian for a period of not less than one year.
- (b) Any person who on or before 19..... has passed an official civil service examination as certified by an official agency qualifying him as a sanitarian, given by the State or political subdivision thereof, provided that such person makes application for registration within eighteen (18) months of the effective date of this Act, or
- (c) Any person who on or before 19..... has been employed as a practicing sanitarian for a period not less than three (3) years, may at the discretion of the Board be considered for registration, provided such person applies for registration within eighteen (18) months of the effective date of this Act.

Section 4. Qualifications for Registration as a Sanitarian-in-Training: Any person meeting the educational qualifications of Section 3 (a) but who does not meet the experience requirements of said section may make application to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board for registration as a sanitarian-in-training. The Board shall accept such application when submitted, if accompanied by the required fees.

Section 5. Examination for Registration as a Sanitarian:

- (a) Only persons who meet the educational and experience requirements in Section 3 (a) shall be eligible for admission to examination for registration as a sanitarian.
- (b) Examinations for the registration of sanitarians-in-training may be required by the discretion of the Board.
- (c) Examinations for registration as a sanitarian under this Act shall be administered not less than once each calendar year, in the State at such times and places as may be specified from time to time by the Board. Such examinations may be written, oral, or both, and shall include applicable subjects in the field of sanitary science and such other subjects pertinent to the qualifications of sanitarians as the Board may prescribe. The examination shall be objective and practical in character. The examination papers shall not disclose the name of any applicant, but shall be identified by a number assigned by the secretary of the Board. The preparation of the examination shall be the responsibility of the Board, provided that the Board may use material prepared by recognized examination agencies.
- (d) A person shall not be registered if he fails to meet the minimum grade requirements for examination specified by the Board. If an applicant fails

to meet such minimum grade requirements in his first examination, he may be reexamined at any time and place specified by the Board for the administration of such examination and upon resubmitting his application accompanied by the prescribed fees.

- (e) The examination papers and records pertaining thereto shall be filed with the secretary of the Board and retained for at least one year.

Section 6. Board Membership: A Board for the registration of sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training is hereby created. It shall consist of six members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be the State Health Officer or his designated representative; one shall be a public-spirited citizen; and four shall be sanitarians who qualify by education and experience for registration as a sanitarian under this Act; provided that on and after 19..... each sanitarian member appointed by the Governor shall be a registered sanitarian under the provisions of this Act.

Section 7. Term of Office: Board members who are sanitarians shall be appointed for a term of office as follows: one shall be designated for a term expiring December 31, 196.....; one shall be designated for a term expiring December 31, 196.....; one shall be designated for a term expiring December 31, 196.....; one shall be designated for a term expiring December 31, 196..... Thereafter the term of office of each sanitarian board member appointed by the Governor shall be for four years. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for unexpired terms. The Governor may remove an appointee member for misconduct in office, incompetency, neglect of duty or other sufficient cause after due notice and a hearing.

Section 8. Board Organization, Duties of the Board, Officers, Compensation, Seal and Meetings:

- (a) The members of the Board shall, as soon as appointed, organize and annually thereafter in the month of, elect from their number a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Secretary. The Secretary shall continue in office at the pleasure of the Board.
- (b) The Board shall make such rules as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (c) The Board shall hold at least one (1) meeting each year to review and evaluate applications for registration as sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training, conduct examinations, review and approve all bills, prepare and approve reports, and transact all other business as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (d) The Board shall issue certificates of registration to applicants who have been found qualified as sanitarians or sanitarians-in-training, to which the official seal of the Board has been affixed.
- (e) Four (4) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and special meetings of the Board shall be called by the Secretary upon written request of any two (2) members of the Board, or upon a written request signed by ten (10) registered sanitarians.
- (f) All Board meetings shall be open to any registered sanitarian with the exception of executive Board sessions.

- (g) The Secretary of the Board shall receive compensation to be fixed by the Board, also traveling and other expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of official duties. The other members of the Board shall receive a per diem allowance at the established State rate for each day actually engaged in official Board meetings plus transportation expenses; provided that no funds shall be dispersed for such purposes without the approval of the Board.
- (h) The Secretary of the Board shall receive and account for all money received from the operation of this Act and shall pay it to the State Treasurer who shall keep such money in a separate fund to be known as "Board of Registration for Sanitarians Fund."
- (i) Funds collected under the provision of this Act shall be used to pay compensation and expenses of the Board and to administer the provisions of this Act. Any surplus at the end of the fiscal year or biennium shall be retained by the Board for future expenditures.
- (j) An annual audit shall be made of the Board's finances and incorporated in an annual report to the Governor. Copies of the annual report shall be mailed to all registered sanitarians.

Section 9. Record of Proceedings—Register of Applications—Register of Registered Sanitarians and Sanitarians-in-Training:

- (a) The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings.
- (b) The Board shall maintain a register of all applications for registration, which shall show:
 - (1) the place of residence, name and age of each applicant; (2) the name and address of employer or business connection of each applicant; (3) the date of application; (4) complete information of educational and experience qualifications; (5) the action taken by the Board; (6) the serial number of the certificate of registration issued to the applicant; (7) the date on which the Board reviewed and acted upon the application; (8) such other pertinent information as may be deemed necessary by the Board.
- (c) The Board shall maintain a current registry of all sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training in the State of that have been registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Section 10. Applications—Fees—Renewals—etc.: The Board shall prescribe and provide an application form for the use of all applicants. Applicants for registration as sanitarians shall deposit a fee of dollars, and applicants for registration as sanitarians-in-training shall deposit a fee of dollars, at the time of making application for registration. The Board may also assess an additional fee for the cost of the examination when deemed necessary.

A Sanitarian registered under the provisions of this Act may renew his certificate by paying the Board an annual renewal fee of dollars. Said fee shall be due and payable on or before the date to be fixed by the Board for which a renewal certificate for the current year shall be issued. All certificates shall expire on the renewal date unless renewed prior to such date. Registrations expired for failure

to pay renewal fees may be reinstated under the rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

Sanitarians-in-training shall be exempt from payment of a renewal fee.

Section 11. Suspension or Revocation of Registration: The Board shall have the power to suspend or revoke, after due notice and proper hearing, a certificate of registration when the holder is found guilty of unprofessional conduct, the practice of fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate of registration, dereliction of duty, incompetence in the practice of sanitation, or for other good and sufficient cause. Notice of hearing in writing shall be given not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing, designating the time and place of hearing and providing the certificate holder with a copy of the charges against him. The person charged shall be entitled to be represented at the hearing and present evidence in his defense. Every order of the Board causing the suspension or revocation of a certificate of registration shall be predicated on findings based upon the record of hearing; the determination of the Board may be reviewed by a court only to determine whether the Board abused its discretion or exceeded its jurisdiction.

Section 12. Reciprocity: Agreements for reciprocity with those States having an Act for the registration of sanitarians, whose provisions are equivalent, may be entered into by the Board under such appropriate rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Board.

Section 13. Use of Title: Only a person who has qualified as a registered sanitarian and who holds a valid current registration certificate for use in this State shall have the right and privilege of using the title, "Registered Sanitarian", and to use the abbreviation, "R.S." after his name.

Section 14. Violation—Penalty: It shall be unlawful for any person to represent himself as a registered sanitarian without being duly registered and the holder of a currently valid certificate of registration issued by the Board.

A person who violates the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be fined not to exceed dollars, or imprisoned for not more than days, or both.

Section 15. Constitutionality Clause: If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

Section 16. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

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