

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 982

Introduced by Assembly Member Firebaugh

February 23, 2001

An act to amend Section 6060 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to State Bar of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 982, as introduced, Firebaugh. State Bar of California: admission qualifications.

Existing law requires that, to be licensed to practice law, a person must have passed a law students' examination after completion of his or her first year in law school. Existing law provides an exception to this requirement for students who have completed 2 years of college work, and have satisfactorily completed a year of study at an accredited law school. Existing law also provides an exception for applicants who have passed the bar examination of a sister state or country.

This bill would add an exception to the law student examination requirement for students who have completed a year of study at a law school determined by the state to meet certain standards, and who have obtained either a bachelor's degree with a grade point average of at least 3.0 from a regionally accredited institution or its equivalent, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution or its equivalent.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6060 of the Business and Professions
2 Code is amended to read:

3 6060. To be certified to the Supreme Court for admission and
4 a license to practice law, a person who has not been admitted to
5 practice law in a sister state, United States jurisdiction, possession,
6 territory, or dependency or in a foreign country shall:

- 7 (a) Be ~~of the age of~~ at least 18 years *of age*.
- 8 (b) Be of good moral character.
- 9 (c) Before beginning the study of law, have done either of the
10 following:

11 (1) Completed at least two years of college work, which college
12 work shall be not less than one-half of the collegiate work
13 acceptable for a bachelor’s degree granted upon the basis of a
14 four-year period of study by a college or university approved by
15 the examining committee.

16 (2) Have attained in apparent intellectual ability the equivalent
17 of at least two years of college work by taking any examinations
18 in such subject matters and achieving the scores thereon as are
19 prescribed by the examining committee.

20 (d) Have registered with the examining committee as a law
21 student within 90 days after beginning the study of law. The
22 examining committee, upon good cause being shown, may permit
23 a later registration.

24 (e) Have done any of the following:

25 (1) Graduated from a law school accredited by the examining
26 committee or approved by the American Bar Association
27 requiring substantially the full time of its students for three years.

28 (2) Graduated from a law school accredited by the examining
29 committee or approved by the American Bar Association
30 requiring a part only of its students’ time for four years.

31 (3) Studied law diligently and in good faith for at least four
32 years in any of the following manners:

33 (i) In a law school that is authorized or approved to confer
34 professional degrees and requires classroom attendance of its
35 students for a minimum of 270 hours a year.

36 A person who has received his or her legal education in a foreign
37 state or country wherein the common law of England does not
38 constitute the basis of jurisprudence shall demonstrate to the



1 satisfaction of the examining committee that his or her education,
2 experience, and qualifications qualify him or her to take the
3 examination.

4 (ii) In a law office in this state and under the personal
5 supervision of a member of the State Bar of California who is, and
6 for at least five years last past continuously has been, engaged in
7 the active practice of law. It is the duty of the supervising attorney
8 to render any periodic reports to the examining committee as the
9 committee may require.

10 (iii) In the chambers and under the personal supervision of a
11 judge of a court of record of this state. It is the duty of the
12 supervising judge to render any periodic reports to the examining
13 committee as the committee may require.

14 (iv) By instruction in law from a correspondence law school
15 authorized or approved to confer professional degrees by this state,
16 which requires 864 hours of preparation and study per year for four
17 years.

18 (v) By any combination of the methods referred to in paragraph
19 (3) of this subdivision.

20 (f) Have passed any examination in professional responsibility
21 or legal ethics as the examining committee may prescribe.

22 (g) Have passed the general bar examination given by the
23 examining committee.

24 (h) (1) Have passed a law students' examination administered
25 by the examining committee after completion of his or her first
26 year of law study. Those who pass the examination within its first
27 three administrations upon becoming eligible to take the
28 examination shall receive credit for all law studies completed to
29 the time the examination is passed. Those who do not pass the
30 examination within its first three administrations upon becoming
31 eligible to take the examination, but who subsequently pass the
32 examination, shall receive credit for one year of legal study only.

33 (2) This requirement does not apply to a student who has
34 satisfactorily completed his or her first year of law study at a law
35 school accredited by the examining committee and who has
36 completed at least two years of college work prior to matriculating
37 in the accredited law school, nor shall this requirement apply to an
38 applicant who has passed the bar examination of a sister state or
39 of a country in which the common law of England constitutes the
40 basis of jurisprudence.



1 The law students' examination shall be administered twice a
2 year at reasonable intervals.

3 (3) *This requirement does not apply to a student who has:*

4 (A) *Completed his or her first year of law study at a law school*
5 *which the state has determined and certified as meeting the*
6 *minimum standards established by the state for integrity, financial*
7 *stability, and educational quality, including the offering of bona*
8 *fide instruction by qualified faculty and the appropriate*
9 *assessment of students' achievement prior to, during, and at the*
10 *end of its program, as required by Section 94718 of the Education*
11 *Code, and which has been approved by the state to operate as a law*
12 *school pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 94900 of the*
13 *Education Code.*

14 (B) *Prior to entering the state-approved school, been awarded*
15 *a bachelor's degree, with a minimum cumulative grade point*
16 *average of 3.0 on a certified transcript from a regionally*
17 *accredited institution or its equivalent, requiring at least four*
18 *years of college work, or has received a graduate degree from a*
19 *regionally accredited institution or its equivalent.*

