



# MONTANA BOARD OF SANITARIANS Newsletter

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## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Susan Brueggeman RS  
Presiding Officer

Gene Townsend  
Public Representative

Eugene Pizzini  
Public Representative

Megan Bullock RS

Stephanie Jean Ler RS



Executive Officer  
Steve Gallus

FEBRUARY 2016

## Why Professional Licensing?

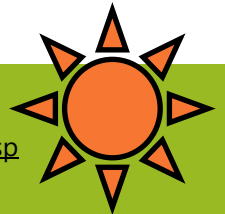
Occupational licensing is an exercise of the state's inherent power to protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Reasons for requiring licensure include:

(1) unqualified practice poses a serious risk to a consumer's life, health, safety or economic well-being; (2) such risks are likely to occur; (3) the public cannot accurately judge a practitioner's qualifications; and (4) benefits to the public clearly outweigh potential harmful effects of licensure.

## Board of Sanitarians Webpage & Email

[http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd\\_boards/san\\_board/board\\_page.asp](http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/license/bsd_boards/san_board/board_page.asp)

[dlibsdsan@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdsan@mt.gov)



## HISTORY OF MONTANA'S SANITARIAN REGISTRATION LAW

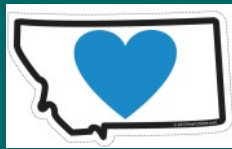
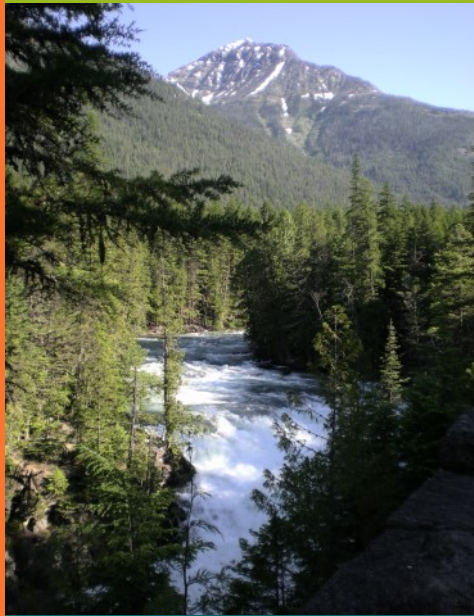
- 1959 - HB273, supported by E.L. Stowe of Billings, David Esmay and Kenneth Read of Great Falls. These three represented the Montana Association of Sanitarians at the Senate committee hearing.
- 1959 - HB273 easily passed the legislature, created a Sanitarians' Registration Council under the Montana State Board of Health, required licensure, and established standards.
- 1974 - Sanitarians' Registration Council opposed legislation moving licensure to the Montana Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing. The resulting law created the Board of Sanitarians under that department, required licensure, and established standards.
- 1977 - Minor amendments made to 1974 law.
- 1981—Board moved from the Department of Professional & Occupational Licensing to the Montana Department of Commerce
- 2001 - Board moved from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Labor & Industry

## DEFINITIONS OF OUR PROFESSION

### MCA 37-40-101

#### 3) Practice the profession of sanitarian means:

- (a) giving advice on or enforcing compliance with state and local regulations applicable to local government jurisdictions and programs concerning food service, food processing, public accommodations, trailer courts, campgrounds, day-care centers, schools, swimming pools and spas, air pollution, solid and hazardous waste collection and disposal, sewage treatment and disposal, vector control, underground storage tanks, drinking water, land subdivision;
- (b) cooperating with government agencies on matters of public and environmental health, including epidemiological investigations and emergency response to investigations; and
- (c) providing educational and training programs in environmental standards and public health.



## Interesting Facts:



### Current Number of Licensed Sanitarians

Active RS = 137  
InActive RS = 23  
SIT = 7

Number of MT Professional  
Licensing Boards = 34

Number of MT Professional  
License Holders = 97,000+

### FY2016 Budget for Board of Sanitarians

Revenue = \$45,445.00

Expenditures = 35,280.81

(Intended to build reserve for rule revision or legal action)

## Supervising a Sanitarian-In-Training ARM 24.216.506

- > Supervising a SIT is a serious responsibility.
- > Supervisor must be a licensed sanitarian.
- > **Failure to properly supervise a SIT in accordance with the approved plan is considered unprofessional conduct and places the supervising sanitarian's license in jeopardy.**
- > Current rules require the supervisor to:
  - Submit a plan for approval of Board.
  - **File quarterly reports on SIT progress.**
  - Be available for immediate communication and consultation on a weekly and as needed basis per the approved plan.
- > ARM 24.216.506(2) describes elements to include in the plan of supervision. The Board has recommendations for an adequate plan of supervision in a document available on the website.

**The Board of Sanitarians website contains much useful information including MCAs, ARMs, meeting agenda, written summary minutes, full audio minutes, forms, contact information, board member information, application to serve on the board, fees for services, licensing information & much more!**

*Please use the current forms available on the webpage*

## DEFINITIONS OF OUR PROFESSION

### MCA 37-40-101

#### (6) Sanitarian-in- Training means:

a person who meets the minimum educational qualifications required for a sanitarian's license and who works under the supervision of a licensed sanitarian. Sanitarians-in-training may, with board approval, work in a public health agency for a period not to exceed 1 year and be considered exempt from the licensing and registration requirements of 37- 40-301.



#### ARM 24.216.506 SANITARIAN-IN- TRAINING

(1)... A person who has not completed an approved general microbiology course, but who otherwise meets the minimum standards for licensure, may be approved as a sanitarian-in-training.

## Hiring a New Sanitarian or Sanitarian-in-Training? A few things to know:

- Sanitarian-In-Training status is permission from the Board of Sanitarians to practice the profession of sanitarian without the license required by MCA 37-40-301 LICENSE REQUIRED.
- A person who has a minimum of a bachelor's degree in environmental health, or one that is deemed equivalent, from an accredited college or university does not need to apply for a SIT permit prior to applying for the RS license. The person can simply make application for the RS license and successfully complete the RS exam. The person may not practice the profession of sanitarian until licensed. Often, a department will have such person obtain a SIT permit to allow them time to study for the RS exam and perform the functions of a sanitarian until they achieve the RS license.
- A person who has a minimum of a bachelor's degree that is equivalent to an environmental health degree from an accredited college or university, with the exception of having a general microbiology course, must apply for an SIT permit. Lack of a microbiology course is the only educational deficiency that allows a person to enter SIT status; a person must have courses in chemistry and biology to qualify for a SIT permit. The SIT application must include an approved training plan; see information on Page 2.
- **The Board has prepared educational transcript review checklists to assist in determining if a RS or SIT applicant's degree may be equivalent to a bachelor's degree in environmental health. Please see the checklists available on the website. The checklists serve as a guide only and are not a guarantee that an application will be approved by the Board of Sanitarians.**
- A SIT has one year under state law to become licensed as an RS. When the SIT has successfully completed any needed microbiology course and the RS exam, he/she may apply to the Board for the RS license. This RS application is always considered "routine" and is quickly processed by the DLI. As a note, the \$200 SIT application fee covers the permit to practice as a sanitarian during the first year. After that time, the RS application fee of \$200 and, subsequently, the annual renewal fee of \$270 apply.
- **To assure the most prompt application response, please check that the application is fully completed and that any required SIT plan of supervision application is also provided.**
- "Routine" applications are those considered by the Department of Labor to be complete and not raising any questions regarding education, criminal background, professional conduct, and other standard licensing criteria. Routine applications are processed more quickly by the department. Applications that do not meet the criteria are considered "NonRoutine" and must be reviewed by the Board, which typically involves a longer review time.
- If it is important for your department to have a licensed RS or permitted SIT on the job quickly, it is best to hire someone who either has an RS license or someone who has an educational transcript that clearly meets the educational transcript review checklist requirements.
- New hires awaiting a RS license or a SIT permit can study regulations, accompany licensed RS's in their work as training, and essentially "intern", provided they are not "practicing the profession of sanitarian".



## DEFINITIONS OF OUR PROFESSION

### MCA 37-40-101

**(5) Sanitarian means:** a person who, by reason of the person's special knowledge of the physical, biological, and chemical sciences and the principles and methods of public health acquired by professional education and practical experience through inspectional, educational, or enforcement duties, is qualified to practice the profession of sanitarian.



*Thank you  
for your service to  
the public health  
and safety of the  
people of  
Montana!*

## Consider the Value of Professional Ethical Standards

1. Standards protect the public health and safety of the people Montana.
2. Standards preserve the integrity of professionals from unethical practitioners.
3. The requirement that sanitarians follow state law regarding environmental and public health standards protects the sanitarian's decision making from undue political or social influences.

A complete listing of the professional ethical standards for sanitarians is found in these locations:

**ARM 24.216.2301**

*Specific to sanitarians*

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**MCA 37-1-316**

*Common to all license holders*

**A PDF of the complete list of standards for sanitarians  
is available on the  
Board of Sanitarians webpage.**

## CEU TIPS

### ARM 24.216.2102

- ◆ 15 Continuing Education Units are required every odd calendar year
- ◆ Upon request from the Board through audit, the licensee must produce evidence of completion of the required CEU.
- ◆ The licensee is responsible for obtaining and retaining documentation of CEUs. One CEU hour is one hour (50-60 minutes) of instruction time during the course and does not include non-instructional lunches, breaks, etc. A certificate of completion, signature of the instructor, or other documentation of attendance is required.
- ◆ A form that may be used to document CEUs is available on the Board webpage.
- ◆ Courses **must be related to** the practice of the profession of sanitarian.
- ◆ Courses provided by NEHA, MEHA, MDEQ, MDPHHS are approved by rule and do not require Board approval.
- ◆ Accreditation and refresher courses by EPA and state agencies are approved by rule and do not require Board approval.
- ◆ Correspondence courses through NEHA, CDC, FDA and other organizations require Board approval.
- ◆ If Board approval is needed, a form to request course approval is available on the Board of Sanitarians webpage.

**Please provide your feedback on this newsletter.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXR32TH>

**Thank you!**