

STATE OF MAINE
BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

MINUTES
Thursday, September 9, 2021

Meeting location: MaineDOT, 20 Capitol St, Augusta, Maine

In attendance: Brent M. Bridges, PE, Chair; Joyce Taylor, PE, Vice Chair; Jude Pearse, PE. Board member Mandy Holway, PE attended remotely. Also present were David Jackson, Executive Director; Tim Steigelman, AAG; and licensee Curt Beveridge. Several members of the public representing professional societies and engineering firms throughout Maine attended remotely.

1. Meeting preliminaries and call to order:

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.
- B. The approval of minutes of August 12, 2021 board meeting was postponed to the November board meeting.

2. Stakeholder discussion

- A. Legislation from last session
 1. LD 374 – An Act to Allow Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, and their Spouses to Apply for Temporary Occupational Licenses. While everyone supported expedited licensure for the individuals identified in the statute, the discussion centered on the board's ability to provide reciprocal licensure within days of receiving a completed application, essentially rendering any temporary licensing scheme duplicative and unnecessary.
 2. LD 11 – An Act to Clarify Reciprocity for Licensure of Professional Engineers. This agency sponsored legislation to allow the board the flexibility to license individuals who have been licensed in other US jurisdictions for at least eight years and remain in good standing. The board had been regularly receiving applications from qualified licensed professional engineers who had been licensed multiple years earlier when it was possible to waive the FE exam. There seemed to be general agreement in support of the board's legislation. No one spoke out against the newly passed statute.
- B. Placeholder legislation and decoupling
 1. Placeholder language proposed by the board would eliminate the need for engineers to apply to the board prior to sitting for the PE exam. The application would instead be filed after the individual completed the required engineering work experience specified in statute. In addition,

language regarding the application that had been under §1354 was moved to §1353 under the heading “Applications.”

The discussion was generally in favor of the idea of “decoupling,” which is simply not requiring engineers to make application to the Board prior to sitting for the NCEES PE or SE exam. All licensure candidates must still complete all licensure requirements under Maine statute prior to being licensed. Some hesitation was expressed by a leader of one of the professional organizations, and it was proposed that Joyce Taylor, PE, and the Executive Director speak to their members at an upcoming meeting, which will be arranged. For the time being, the language will move forward as placeholder legislation.

C. NTSB letter and the definition of Professional Engineering

A discussion was held regarding the NTSB letter requesting that Maine eliminate an exemption that was perceived to exist in Maine law regarding natural gas infrastructure. The Board interprets the definition of Professional Engineering in Maine statute to include work related to natural gas infrastructure.

D. Licensure and enforcement concerns

Because of the NTSB letter and what appears to be general misunderstanding of what is commonly referred to as the “industrial exemption,” the Board will make greater efforts this year to do outreach to educate licensees to their responsibility under the existing statute. It appears that individuals and companies are claiming exemption under the so-called “industrial exemption” without realizing the limits of any such exemption and the requirement for actual oversight by a licensed professional engineer who is in responsible charge.

E. Engineering outreach

A recent WSJ article pointed out the decline in young males attending college, and professional engineers were encouraged to sign up as volunteers to speak to local school districts, as well as to participate in programming to encourage young people to continue their education. The Board will publish resources to assist licensees in finding opportunities to speak to elementary and high school students about their careers.

3. Adjournment

A. Next scheduled meeting is November 18, 2021.

B. Meeting adjourned at 11:03pm.

On motion by Ms. Taylor and second by Ms. Pearse, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:03am. (Yes votes: Bridges, Taylor, Pearse, Holway; No votes: none)