



Maine PE News

STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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LD 576 passed: An Act Regarding Reciprocal Professional Engineering Licensure

The Maine Legislature recently passed LD 576, An Act Regarding Reciprocal Professional Engineering Licensure, which permits implementation of the US-UK Mutual Recognition Agreement and takes effect 90 days after the end of the legislative session. The statute reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 1352-A (1)(B) as amended by PL 2019, c. 375, § 11 is further amended to read:

B. An applicant person for licensure holding an active national council record whose qualifications meet the requirements of this chapter upon application may be licensed without further examination.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 1352-A (1)(B-1) is enacted to read:

B-1. An applicant for licensure who meets the requirements of a mutual recognition agreement between the State of Maine and another state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or any foreign country, whose licensure qualifications are, in the opinion of the board and by the language of the agreement, deemed substantially equivalent to the requirements in this chapter, may be licensed without further examination.

What it means:

Section 1 revises the language of § 1352-A (1)(B) to make the beginning of that section consistent with all other paragraphs in the same sub-section; there is no substantive change to the statute in that section.

Section 2 enacts § 1352-A (1)(B-1) to allow the Mutual Recognition Agreement signed last year by the UK Engineering Council and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) to take effect in Maine.

Under the MRA, individuals licensed by signatories to the MRA, who meet the qualifications specified in the MRA, can receive reciprocal licensure without requiring additional testing or qualifications. Not all who are licensed are eligible, as the qualifications for US engineers specify an engineering degree and both the FE and PE exams, so those who became licensed on alternate pathways will likely not meet the requirements of the MRA.

Chartered Engineers in the UK can be licensed in Maine as Professional Engineers and in other participating US jurisdictions. Professional Engineers licensed in Maine can be licensed as Chartered Engineers in the UK.

The language of the statute also anticipates the possibility of additional MRAs with other jurisdictions to be considered in the future.

Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, PhD, former member of the Maine PE Board, Professor, and Associate Dean of the UMaine College of Engineering

It is with sadness that the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers notes the passing of former board member Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, PhD, who died on February 15, 2025. Dr. Hamilton was an Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at UMaine and served as a member of the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers from October, 1988 until 2005.

Dr. Hamilton was licensed as a professional engineer first in Ohio and then in Maine, where he held an active license from January 1964 through December 2005. He maintained a “PE, Retired” status until 2011. He is remembered by Beatrice Labbe, who ran the board office as Supervisor of Licensing for 24 years, as “a true gentleman.”

Dr. Hamilton obtained a BS in Civil Engineering from Ohio Northern University in 1958 through the G.I. bill, after completing service with the Marine Corps in 1953. He received an MS degree from Case University in 1960 and after graduating moved to Orono, where he joined the civil engineering faculty at UMaine. He later received his PhD from Oklahoma State University in 1967. Dr. Hamilton served as the Chair of the civil engineering department from 1969 to 1977 and as Associate Dean of the College of Engineering from 1977 until he retired in 1997. He continued to teach until 1999. He is fondly remembered by students, staff, and faculty for his love of teaching, his compassion for his students, and his practical approach to the application of engineering principles. Dr. Hamilton received a number of awards during his illustrious career, including the Ashley Campbell Award in 1987 and the Gorman Emeriti Faculty Award in 2008.

Dr. Hamilton was involved in his community outside the University, as well, serving on town boards, in civic and service organizations, in his church, and with the Boy Scouts of America. Through his involvement with the Kiwanis Club of Orono-Old Town, Dr. Hamilton earned the nickname “Mr. Bookman” for regularly stocking the used book table at the Orono Hannaford for 20 years, helping to raise over \$100,000 for local children through those efforts.

Dr. Hamilton also helped a lot of engineering students over the years to resolve financial and other issues so they could continue their education. He eventually established two scholarship funds, to which contributions can be made in his memory:

The Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund at the University of Maine Foundation, Two Alumni Place, Orono, ME 044669-5792; or

The Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, Civil Engineering Scholarship at Ohio Northern University, Office of University Development, 525 South Main Street, Ada, OH 45810-9989.

Wayne Hamilton was a light, and those whose lives he touched continue to carry that light in his honor and memory. You can find his complete obituary and a number of tributes to Dr. Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, PhD, online.

Board Welcomes New Executive Director

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers is pleased to welcome Christine Wojdyla, Esq., as the new Executive Director of the Board. Christine will start with the board on June 23 and is looking forward to working with the Board. She is eager to collaborate with and strengthen relationships with stakeholders, other licensing boards in Maine and colleagues throughout the country. Christine replaces retiring executive Director David Jackson, who held the position for 13 years.

Christine has been serving for the past five years as Senior Policy Advisor to the Office for Family Independence, Maine Department of Health and Human Services. As a member of the Senior Management Team, she provided research and analytical support to a variety of programs, including MaineCare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Her primary areas of focus were confidentiality, benefit disputes/appeals, development of memoranda of understanding (MOUs), and immigration issues. Relatedly, she oversaw OFI administrative hearings processes, OFI privacy and security matters, and OFI contract coordination/administration.

Christine relocated to Maine in June 2020, prior to which she lived in her home state of Minnesota. She was previously employed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry as a Senior Investigator in the Construction Codes and Licensing Division, responsible for overseeing investigation and enforcement actions. She also worked for the Workers' Compensation Division monitoring compliance, assessing penalties and negotiating settlements, and conducting training and outreach.

Before her work in public service, Christine practiced law as an associate attorney with a focus on workers' compensation, litigation, mediation, and family-based immigration. She has been licensed as an attorney in Minnesota since 2010.

Additionally, Christine has served as an adjunct faculty member at colleges since 2013. She has taught a variety of legal, business, and ethics courses. In her free time, Christine is an avid walker, loves to explore Maine, visit with family and friends, and hopes to adopt a dog soon.



Board Bids Farewell to Retiring Executive Director

David Jackson has retired from state service after 13 years as Executive Director, having previously worked on staff and served as a public board member. The Board wishes him well as he shifts his focus to the home improvement projects that await him. His last day with the board is June 20.

The Board has been fortunate to be guided by his steady hand. He has been an outstanding Executive Director who taught us to be better board members, identified proposed legislation that could impact professional licensure, and provided the board with thoughtful opinions. He has been a valuable resource for all Maine licensed PEs.

At regional and national conferences, we often received feedback from members of other state boards about how well David represented Maine as he served on committees for NCEES.

As we welcome our new Executive Director, we recognize the solid foundation David created and upon which Christine will build to bring the the Board to new heights. We are forever grateful for his leadership over the past 13 years.

PE License renewals: December 31, 2025

In accordance with Maine law, all PE licenses expire on December 31 each odd-numbered year, unless renewed. This is 2025, which means all PE licenses will expire December 31, 2025. We would like to remind you that:

1. As the license holder, you alone are accountable for complying with the law regarding renewal. Blaming a spouse or an employee does not absolve you of your legal responsibility and, frankly, it's a bad look.
2. Online renewals open November 1, 2025.
3. You can and should renew online. It's just way easier for everyone.
4. The renewal fee is USD \$120, and can be paid through the secure credit card payment service online.
5. If you choose to pay by check, you must still complete and submit the online application and mark when instructed that you are paying by check. You will then print the completed online application and mail it with the check, and include your name and PE number on the check. Your renewal application will not be processed until payment is received.
6. You can print a receipt at the time you submit your payment.
7. If you need the office to print you a separate receipt for some reason, please send a polite email making that request.
8. PDH — You must have completed 30 hours of professional development PRIOR to renewal.
9. You must maintain your PDH records for three (3) years in case of audit. The Board does not retain PDH records or a record of "what you claimed last time." You, as the licensee, have the sole responsibility to maintain your PDH records. We recommend using the free NCEES CPC Tracking system.
10. Your attestation in your renewal application that you have completed the required PDH prior to applying for renewal has legal significance. If an audit reveals that the PDH were not complete when you applied for renewal, that is a violation and can result in discipline against your license.
11. If an audit reveals that you do not have documentation proving the required number of PDH credits, that is also a violation and may result in discipline against your license.
12. If you are claiming a carry-over of PDH from a prior licensure biennium, you must maintain records of all of the PDH from the prior biennium to prove the carry-over. We strongly recommend that licensees use the free NCEES CPC Tracking system.
13. The licensure biennium begins January 1 of the even-numbered year and ends in on December 31 of the odd-numbered year.
14. You must report discipline that has been imposed by another jurisdiction. It is discipline when it is final, resulting in a fine, suspension, revocation, or other action against your license. A dismissal is not discipline and does not need to be reported. Note: Maine law requires that you report discipline within 30 days, so if at time of renewal you report discipline that has not been previously reported but should have been, you may be found to have violated the law and discipline may be imposed.
15. Criminal convictions must also be reported. These are reviewed by the Board and assessed in light of Maine statutory requirements. This will delay the renewal of your license until the next board meeting.

A Note of Caution: Stolen Credentials

Several web-based companies have been established purportedly to link individuals in need of professional services to those who offer these professional services on a freelance basis. (Fiverr, Upwork, etc.)

Bad actors use these platforms and present themselves as professionals using stolen or altered professional credentials. We have had discussions with board staff in other jurisdictions who indicate that this is also an area of increasing concern for them.

A few months ago, board staff was contacted by a busy Maine PE who had contracted with someone they were led to believe was a licensed PE in Maine to complete a small professional engineering project. They contracted through one of the web-based companies.

When the work was transmitted, the PE reviewed it and saw that it was clearly incorrect. The individual used metric measurements, failed to comply with current codes, and so forth. Yet it bore a Maine PE seal. The Maine PE contacted the individual who completed the work, who promised to correct it. When the work came back the second time, it was still deficient. The Maine PE reached out to us.

We identified the PE from the license number, and it was immediately obvious that the PE credentials had been used fraudulently, which we confirmed with the actual licensee. While the number was a real license number, the first name had been changed to correspond with the imposter's gender.

We encouraged both the Maine PE and the licensee whose credentials had been misused to contact the freelance company to file a report, and to contact the Office of the Maine Attorney General.

The authority of the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers ("Board") is constrained by statute. The Board's authority is granted by the Maine Legislature, therefore the jurisdiction of the Board has both geographical and legal limits.

When a complaint comes to the Board, the Board first makes a determination whether the actions taken fall under the statutory definition of professional engineering, and then determines if the individual is a licensee (PE, EI, or applicant). If the individual is not a licensee, the Board dismisses the complaint and refers the matter to the Office of the Maine Attorney General for the prosecution of the unlicensed practice of professional engineering. The Maine AG also has jurisdictional limits.

The apparent rise in the use of stolen or altered credentials across state lines and internationally makes it more important than ever to educate the public on the importance of professional licensure for public safety, and to inform people where they can look up professional licensure information.

Licensees and the public should feel free to contact the Board to verify licensure and contact information for individual licensees. A simple phone call or email could have prevented this particular situation from happening.

However, the larger issue of stolen credentials is a growing problem nationally. While there is currently software available for purchase that can delete the seal and signature from drawings that have been altered, it does not prevent the illicit use of a wet seal and fake signature. There is ongoing discussion nationally among state licensing boards about creating solutions to this growing problem.

Please get involved with your state and national professional societies on this issue, and contact both your state board and your state attorney general's office if you see instances of the illicit use of professional credentials. It is our united responsibility to protect the health, safety, and property of the public. Thank you.

NCEES FE Practice Exams

NCEES now offers two different FE practice exam types that they have developed to assist exam takers in preparing for the exams. The practice exams are available in each FE Exam discipline offered.

1. The e-book Download Practice Exams (\$34.95 each) contain questions and solutions that are designed to familiarize you with the exam content. Because it is a PDF document, it is downloadable to any device you own, such as a phone, tablet, or laptop. You can take the practice exam with you anywhere to study, and you will continue to have lifetime access to the PDF practice exam.
 2. The FE Interactive Practice Exams (\$50 each) contain questions and solutions that are in the same computer-based exam format as the actual exams. Features include options for a timed test, immediate solution review, and item specification information. You are able to access the interactive practice exam as often as you want for up to one (1) year from the date of purchase.
- NCEES has shared data with state licensing boards that appears to indicate that those who use the NCEES FE Interactive Practice Exams have a statistically higher pass rate than those who indicate that they have not used the practice exams.

From a cost/benefit perspective, if an extra \$50 makes it more likely that someone is going to pass the FE exam, that seems like it could be a worthwhile investment. Be well.

Reminder to Update Contact Info

All licensees (including applicants pending licensure) **MUST** update contact information within 10 days of any change.

If you move, change your mailing address, change employers, change your name, get a new phone, or new email, you **MUST** update your contact info within 10 days.

If you do not, you may miss a notice or communication from the Board, which can cause you to miss a deadline, such as renewal, and you may even lose the right to practice.



State Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers
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Current PE Board

Seat	Name	Position
1	Robert Dorko, PE	Member
2	Jude Pearse, PE	Member
3	Joyce Taylor, PE	Vice Chair
4	Brent Bridges, PE	Chair
5	Kim Powers, PE	Member
6	VACANT	Public member
7	Bob Chaput Jr., PE	Member

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