**02-070**

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

**STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR GEOLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS**

2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **02-070**

AGENCY NAME: Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, **State Board of Licensure for Geologists and Soil Scientists**

CONTACT INFORMATION for thE agency **RULEMAKING LIAISON**: Penny Vaillancourt, Director, OPOR, 35 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-441-7153, [penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov](mailto:penny.vaillancourt@maine.gov)

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None.

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

Expected rulemaking will be to implement legislation governing licensure by endorsement and provisional licensure. A review for conformance with statutes and current rules will be conducted and updated as may be necessary, including an update to discontinue the use of the terms “handicap,” “handicapped” and “hearing impaired” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 2557, sub-§2.

**CHAPTER 1**: **Definitions**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908

PURPOSE: Defines terms used in statute and rule. The Board may review and revise its rules to ensure clarity and conformity with the enabling statute.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 2**: **General Information**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908; 5 M.R.S. §§ 8051, 9001(4)

PURPOSE: The Board may review and revise its rules to ensure clarity and conformity with the enabling statute to establish guidelines relating to meetings, advisory rulings, and maintenance of records.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 3**: **Code of Ethics**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908

PURPOSE: The Board may review and revise its rules to ensure clarity and conformity with the enabling statute to promulgate a code of ethics to assist in the protection of the public welfare.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 4**: **Certification Requirements**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908

PURPOSE: The Board may review and revise its rules to ensure clarity and conformity with the enabling statute to describe the procedures to be followed in determining whether an applicant is eligible to be certified as a geologist or soil scientist.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for Licensure and Licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 5**: **Fees**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908

PURPOSE: The Board may repeal this chapter as it is no longer necessary. The fee schedule is set forth in rules established for all boards and programs in Chapters 10 and 11 of the Rules of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for Licensure and Licensees.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER 6**: **Complaints, Investigations and Adjudicatory Hearings**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 M.R.S. § 4908

PURPOSE: The Board may review and revise its rules to ensure clarity and conformity the procedures by which complaints and adjudicatory hearings are handled by other OPOR agencies.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Licensees and members of the public.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: N/A**

STATUTORY BASIS: 32 M.R.S. § 3501-C; M.R.S. § 8003-H

PURPOSE: To implement legislation, to establish a process to issue a license by endorsement to applicants from other jurisdictions.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Within one year, if necessary.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Applicants for licensure.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: N/A