

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 742

Short Title: Clarify PE Licensure. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Arp, Catlin, and Millis (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Regulatory Reform.

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL LICENSURE AS A
3 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 89C-13 reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 89C-13. General requirements for licensure.**

7 (a) ~~Engineer Applicant.~~—~~The following shall be considered as minimum evidence~~
8 ~~satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional engineer:~~

9 (1) ~~To be certified as an engineer intern, an applicant shall (i) pass the~~
10 ~~fundamentals of engineering examination and make application to the Board,~~
11 ~~(ii) be of good character and reputation, (iii) submit three character~~
12 ~~references to the Board, one of whom is a professional engineer, (iv) comply~~
13 ~~with the requirements of this Chapter, and (v) meet one of the following~~
14 ~~requirements:~~

15 a. ~~Education.~~—~~Be a graduate of an engineering curriculum or related~~
16 ~~science curriculum of four years or more, approved by the Board as~~
17 ~~being of satisfactory standing.~~

18 b. ~~Education and experience.~~—~~Be a graduate of an engineering~~
19 ~~curriculum or related science curriculum of four years or more, other~~
20 ~~than curriculums approved by the Board as being of satisfactory~~
21 ~~standing, or possess equivalent education and engineering experience~~
22 ~~satisfactory to the Board with a specific record of four or more years~~
23 ~~of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and~~
24 ~~character satisfactory to the Board.~~

25 (1a) ~~To be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant shall (i) be of good~~
26 ~~character and reputation, (ii) submit five character references to the Board,~~
27 ~~three of whom are professional engineers or individuals acceptable to the~~
28 ~~Board with personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience,~~
29 ~~(iii) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (iv) meet one of the~~
30 ~~following requirements:~~

31 a. ~~Licensure by Comity or Endorsement.~~—~~A person holding a~~
32 ~~certificate of licensure to engage in the practice of engineering, on~~
33 ~~the basis of comparable qualifications, issued to the person by a~~
34 ~~proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United~~
35 ~~States, the District of Columbia, or of any foreign country possessing~~



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1 credentials that, based on verifiable evidence, in the opinion of the
2 Board, of a standard not lower than that in effect in this State at the
3 time the certificate was issued, may upon application, be licensed
4 without further examination, except as required to examine the
5 applicant's knowledge of laws, rules, and requirements unique to
6 North Carolina.

7 b. ~~E.I. Certificate, Experience, and Examination.~~— A holder of a
8 certificate of engineer intern and with a specific record of an
9 additional four years or more of progressive experience on
10 engineering projects of a grade and character which indicates to the
11 Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering,
12 shall be admitted to the principles and practice of engineering
13 examination. Upon passing the examination, the applicant shall be
14 granted a certificate of licensure to practice professional engineering
15 in this State, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.

16 e. ~~Graduation, Experience, and Examination.~~— A graduate of an
17 engineering curriculum of four years or more approved by the Board
18 as being of satisfactory standing, shall be admitted to the
19 fundamentals of engineering examination, and with a specific record
20 of an additional four years or more of progressive experience on
21 engineering projects of a grade and character that indicates to the
22 Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering,
23 the principles and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing
24 the examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of
25 licensure to practice professional engineering in this State, provided
26 the applicant is otherwise qualified.

27 d. ~~Graduation, Experience, and Examination.~~— A graduate of an
28 engineering or related science curriculum of four years or more,
29 other than the ones approved by the Board as being of satisfactory
30 standing or with an equivalent education and engineering experience
31 satisfactory to the Board shall be admitted to the fundamentals of
32 engineering examination and with a specific record of an additional
33 eight years or more of progressive experience on engineering
34 projects of a grade and character that indicates to the Board that the
35 applicant may be competent to practice engineering, the principles
36 and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing the
37 examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure
38 to practice professional engineering in this State, provided the
39 applicant is otherwise qualified.

40 e. ~~Long Established Practice.~~— A person with a specific record of 20
41 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a
42 grade and character which indicates to the Board that the applicant
43 may be competent to practice engineering shall be admitted to the
44 principles and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing the
45 examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure
46 to practice professional engineering in this State, provided the
47 applicant is otherwise qualified.

48 f. ~~Full time faculty.~~— Full time engineering faculty members who
49 teach in an approved engineering program offering a four-year or
50 more degree approved by the Board, may request and be granted
51 waiver of the fundamentals of engineering examination. The faculty

1 applicant shall document that the degree meets the Board's
2 requirement. The faculty applicant shall then be admitted to the
3 principles and practice of engineering examination.

- 4 g. ~~Doctoral degree. – A person possessing an earned doctoral degree in~~
5 ~~engineering from an institution in which the same discipline~~
6 ~~undergraduate engineering program has been accredited by ABET~~
7 ~~(EAC) may request and be granted waiver of the fundamentals of~~
8 ~~engineering examination. The doctoral degree applicant shall~~
9 ~~document that the degree meets the Board's requirement. The~~
10 ~~doctoral degree applicant shall then be admitted to the principles and~~
11 ~~practice of engineering examination.~~

12 ~~At its discretion the Board may require an applicant to submit exhibits, drawings, designs,~~
13 ~~or other tangible evidence of engineering work which the applicant personally accomplished or~~
14 ~~supervised.~~ Engineer Intern. – To be certified as an engineer intern, an applicant shall (i) pass
15 the fundamentals of engineering examination and make application to the Board, (ii) be of good
16 character and reputation, (iii) submit three character references to the Board, one of whom is a
17 professional engineer, (iv) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (v) meet one of
18 the following requirements:

- 19 (1) Education. – Be a graduate of an EAC/ABET accredited engineering
20 curriculum or of a related science curriculum which has been approved by
21 the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
22 (2) Education and experience. – Be a graduate of an engineering curriculum or
23 related science curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums
24 approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in subdivision (1) of
25 this subsection, and possess engineering experience satisfactory to the Board
26 with a specific record of four or more years of progressive experience on
27 engineering projects of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board.

28 (a1) Engineer Applicant. – To be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant (i)
29 shall be of good character and reputation, (ii) submit five character references to the Board,
30 three of whom are professional engineers or individuals acceptable to the Board with personal
31 knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience, (iii) comply with the requirements of this
32 Chapter, and (iv) meet the requirements related to education, examination, and experience set
33 forth in this subsection. An applicant seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall meet the
34 following requirements:

- 35 (1) Education requirement. – Possess one or more of the following educational
36 qualifications:
37 a. A bachelor's degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET accredited
38 program or in a related science curriculum which has been approved
39 by the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
40 b. A bachelor's degree in an engineering curriculum or related science
41 curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums approved
42 by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in sub-subdivision a.
43 of this subdivision.
44 c. A master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers
45 EAC/ABET accredited programs.
46 d. An earned doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that
47 offers EAC/ABET accredited programs and in which the degree
48 requirements are approved by the Board.
49 (2) Examination requirements. – Take and pass the Fundamentals of
50 Engineering (FE) examination. Take and pass the Principles and Practice of

1 Engineering (PE) examination as provided by G.S. 89C-15, after having met
2 the education requirement set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

3 (3) Experience requirement. – Present evidence satisfactory to the Board of a
4 specific record of progressive engineering experience that is of a grade and
5 character that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to
6 practice engineering. The Board may adopt rules to specify the years of
7 experience required based on educational attainment, provided the
8 experience requirement for an applicant who qualifies under sub-subdivision
9 (1)a. of this subsection shall be no less than four years and for an applicant
10 who qualifies under sub-subdivision (1)b. of this subsection, no less than
11 eight years.

12 For purposes of this subsection the term "EAC/ABET" means the Engineering
13 Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

14 (a2) Licensure by Comity or Endorsement. – A person holding a certificate of licensure
15 to engage in the practice of engineering, on the basis of comparable qualifications, issued to the
16 person by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District
17 of Columbia, or of any foreign country possessing credentials that, based on verifiable
18 evidence, in the opinion of the Board, of a standard not lower than that in effect in this State at
19 the time the certificate was issued, may upon application, be licensed without further
20 examination, except as required to examine the applicant's knowledge of laws, rules, and
21 requirements unique to North Carolina.

22 (a3) Long-Established Practice. – A person with a specific record of 20 years or more of
23 progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and character which indicates to the
24 Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering shall be admitted to the
25 Principles and Practice of Engineering examination. Upon passing the examination, the person
26 shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice professional engineering in this State,
27 provided the person is otherwise qualified.

28 (a4) Exceptions. – The following persons may apply for and be granted waiver of the
29 fundamentals of engineering examination and admission to the principles and practice of
30 engineering examination:

31 (1) A full-time engineering faculty member who teaches in an approved
32 engineering program offering a four-year or more degree approved by the
33 Board. The faculty member applicant shall document that the degree meets
34 the Board's requirements.

35 (2) A person possessing an earned doctoral degree in engineering from an
36 institution in which the same discipline undergraduate engineering program
37 has been accredited by EAC/ABET. The doctoral degree applicant shall
38 document that the degree meets the Board's requirements.

39 (b) Land Surveyor Applicant. – The evaluation of a land surveyor applicant's
40 qualifications shall involve a consideration of the applicant's education, technical, and land
41 surveying experience, exhibits of land surveying projects with which the applicant has been
42 associated, and recommendations by references. The land surveyor applicant's qualifications
43 may be reviewed at an interview if the Board determines it necessary. Educational credit for
44 institute courses, correspondence courses, or other courses shall be determined by the Board.

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46 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.