



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

State Board of Examiners for
Engineering & Land Surveying
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House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 297-A

Dear Representative Paul Holvey, Chair and Committee Members:

SB 297-A was introduced by the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS) as simply a housekeeping bill. SB 297-A does not establish new criterion for licensure; rather this Bill proposes to modernize the application process and to bring the OSBEELS statutes up-to-date.

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) develops, administers, and scores the examinations used for engineering and land surveying licensure in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NCEES also facilitates professional mobility and promotes uniformity of the U.S. licensure process. They are currently working toward moving the professional practice-based examinations from a biannual paper examination to a year-round computer-based test. The first examination required for licensure is the fundamentals examinations that have been year-round, computer-based tests since January 2014. SB 297-A proposes to revise the statutes to keep up with the national examination procedures and to eliminate potential future conflicts resulting from administration changes.

The statutes currently require the basic qualifications of passing the fundamentals and the professional examinations, and gaining experience, to all applicants regardless of the type of application an applicant submits to the Board (i.e., applying for registration based on: examinations taken in Oregon; examinations taken in another jurisdiction; or on registration in another jurisdiction). The passage of SB 297-A does not change the qualification requirements for registration, but would allow an applicant to obtain the necessary qualifications for registration, including sitting for the required examinations, in any order convenient to the applicant, and prior to applying for licensure with OSBEELS.



Section 7 of the Bill allows a waiver of the fundamentals of engineering examination for qualifying applicants that hold an active license to practice in another jurisdiction for a minimum of 25 years. There are no jurisdictions that waive the fundamentals of land surveying examination. In 2013, Senator Betsy Johnson and Representative Wayne Krieger requested the Board to entertain a waiver of the fundamentals of engineering examination for individuals licensed in another jurisdiction. Current law requires applicants licensed in another jurisdiction to have obtained that license in a substantially equivalent manner that it would have been if the license was granted in Oregon at the time of licensure. This manner includes: first, successful passage of the fundamentals of engineering examination; second, obtain four-years of qualifying experience; and last, successful passage of a professional engineering examination. Although, many of these individuals were originally licensed in states that waived the fundamentals of engineering examination on the basis of education and/or experience, the Board, at present, must deny these applicants a license to practice engineering in Oregon because the applicant was permitted to bypass the first step, 25 years ago.

SB 297-A also resolves sections of the statutes for photogrammetric mapping, which have been overlooked in past legislative sessions.

Finally, as part of a continuing effort to safeguard the life, health, and the property of the public in the State, SB 297-A also proposes to allow OSBEELS to refuse registration if the applicant has violated a statute, rule, or professional/ethical standard in another jurisdiction that would be grounds to refuse, suspend, or revoke registration in the state of Oregon.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Lopez
Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mari Lopez", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive.