

HB 713

2014

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to engineers; amending s. 471.007, F.S.; revising qualifications and procedures for the appointment and reappointment of members of the Board of Professional Engineers; providing for staggered terms; amending s. 471.013, F.S.; revising requirements for an engineer license applicant who fails the fundamentals examination; authorizing such applicant who is delayed in taking the examination by military service to have additional attempts to take the examination; amending s. 471.017, F.S.; revising requirements for professional development hours and license renewal for engineers; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 471.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

471.007 Board of Professional Engineers.—

(1) There is created in the department the Board of Professional Engineers. The board shall consist of 11 members, nine of whom shall be licensed engineers and two of whom shall be laypersons who are not and have never been engineers or members of any closely related profession or occupation. A member of the board must be selected and appointed based on his

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27 or her qualifications to provide expertise and experience to the  
28 board at all times in civil engineering; structural engineering;  
29 electrical or electronic engineering; mechanical, plumbing, or  
30 fire protection engineering; and engineering education. ~~Of the~~  
31 ~~members who are licensed engineers, three shall be civil~~  
32 ~~engineers, one shall be a structural engineer, one shall be~~  
33 ~~either an electrical or electronic engineer, one shall be a~~  
34 ~~mechanical engineer, one shall be an industrial engineer, one~~  
35 ~~shall be an engineering educator, and one shall be from any~~  
36 ~~discipline of engineering other than civil engineering.~~

37 (2) Members of the board shall be appointed by the  
38 Governor for terms of 4 years each. If possible, members shall  
39 be appointed from a list of qualified nominees submitted by the  
40 Florida Engineering Society, Inc.

41 (3) Appointments to the board must be in such a manner  
42 that the expiration year of the terms of members shall be  
43 staggered, if possible. Each member shall hold office until the  
44 expiration of his or her appointed term or until a successor has  
45 been appointed.

46 (4) Members may be reappointed for successive terms. If a  
47 vacancy on the board, due to resignation, death, or for any  
48 other cause, is not filled within 3 months by the Governor, the  
49 board may elect a provisional member to serve until the Governor  
50 appoints a successor.

51 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
52 471.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

53 471.013 Examinations; prerequisites.—

54 (1)

55 (e) Every applicant who is qualified to take the  
 56 fundamentals examination or the principles and practice  
 57 examination shall be allowed to take either examination three  
 58 times, notwithstanding the number of times either examination  
 59 has been previously failed. If an applicant fails either  
 60 examination three times, the board shall require the applicant  
 61 to complete additional college-level education courses or a  
 62 relevant examination review course as a condition of future  
 63 eligibility to take that examination. If the applicant is  
 64 delayed in taking the examination by service in the United  
 65 States Armed Forces, the applicant is allowed an additional two  
 66 attempts to take the examination before the board may require  
 67 additional college-level education or review courses.

68 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 471.017, Florida  
 69 Statutes, is amended to read:

70 471.017 Renewal of license.—

71 (3) (a) The board shall require a demonstration of  
 72 continuing professional competency of engineers as a condition  
 73 of license renewal or relicensure. Every licensee must complete  
 74 10 4 professional development hours~~7~~ for each year of the  
 75 license renewal period. For each renewal period for such  
 76 continuing education:~~7~~—4

77 1. Four hours must ~~shall~~ relate to this chapter, and the  
 78 rules adopted under this chapter, and professional ethics; and

79 ~~the remaining 4~~

80 2. Four hours must ~~shall~~ relate to the licensee's area of  
81 practice; and

82 3. The remaining hours may relate to any topic pertinent  
83 to the practice of engineering.

84  
85 Up to 12 hours may be earned by presenting or attending  
86 seminars, in-house courses, workshops, or professional or  
87 technical presentations made at meetings, conventions, or  
88 conferences, including those presented by vendors with specific  
89 knowledge related to the licensee's area of practice. Up to 4  
90 hours may be earned by serving as an officer or actively  
91 participating on a committee of the Florida Engineering Society,  
92 Inc. The hours required pursuant to s. 471.0195 may apply to any  
93 requirements of this section except for those required under  
94 subparagraph 1.

95 (b) The board shall adopt rules that are substantially  
96 consistent with the Continuing Professional Competency  
97 Guidelines of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering  
98 and Surveying ~~for multijurisdictional licensees for the purpose~~  
99 ~~of avoiding proprietary continuing professional competency~~  
100 ~~requirements~~ and shall allow nonclassroom hours to be credited.  
101 The board may, by rule, exempt from continuing professional  
102 competency requirements retired professional engineers who no  
103 longer sign and seal engineering documents and licensees in  
104 unique circumstances that severely limit opportunities to obtain

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105 | the required professional development hours.

106 |       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.