

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to engineers; amending s. 471.007,
3 F.S.; revising qualifications for appointment of
4 members of the Board of Professional Engineers;
5 permitting a professional or technical engineering
6 society to provide a list of qualified nominees for
7 consideration for appointment to the board; providing
8 for staggered terms and length of terms; amending s.
9 471.013, F.S.; revising requirements for an engineer
10 license applicant who fails the fundamentals
11 examination; authorizing such applicant who is delayed
12 in taking the examination due to military service to
13 have additional attempts to take the examination;
14 amending s. 471.015, F.S.; revising requirements for
15 obtaining licensure by endorsement; amending s.
16 471.017, F.S.; revising requirements for continuing
17 education hours and license renewal for engineers;
18 providing an effective date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Section 471.007, Florida Statutes, is amended
23 to read:

24 471.007 Board of Professional Engineers.—

25 (1) There is created in the department the Board of
26 Professional Engineers. The board shall consist of 11 members,

27 nine of whom shall be licensed engineers and two of whom shall
28 be laypersons who are not and have never been engineers or
29 members of any closely related profession or occupation. A
30 member of the board who is a licensed engineer must be selected
31 and appointed based on his or her qualifications to provide
32 expertise and experience to the board at all times in civil
33 engineering; structural engineering; electrical or electronic
34 engineering; mechanical engineering; or engineering education.
35 ~~Of the members who are licensed engineers, three shall be civil~~
36 ~~engineers, one shall be a structural engineer, one shall be~~
37 ~~either an electrical or electronic engineer, one shall be a~~
38 ~~mechanical engineer, one shall be an industrial engineer, one~~
39 ~~shall be an engineering educator, and one shall be from any~~
40 ~~discipline of engineering other than civil engineering.~~

41 (2) Following expiration of the terms of members appointed
42 to initiate staggered terms as set forth in subsection (3),
43 members of the board ~~Members~~ shall be appointed by the Governor
44 for terms of 4 years each. A professional or technical
45 engineering society may submit a list of qualified nominees to
46 be considered by the Governor for appointment.

47 (3) When the terms of members serving as of July 1, 2014,
48 expire, the terms of their immediate successors shall be
49 staggered so that three members are appointed for 2 years, four
50 members are appointed for 3 years, and four members are
51 appointed for 4 years, as determined by the Governor. Each
52 member shall hold office until the expiration of his or her

53 appointed term or until a successor has been appointed.

54 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
55 471.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

56 471.013 Examinations; prerequisites.—

57 (1)

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

72 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
73 471.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

74 471.015 Licensure.—

75 (5) (a) The board shall deem that an applicant who seeks
76 licensure by endorsement has passed an examination substantially
77 equivalent to the fundamentals examination when such applicant
78 has+

79 1. ~~Has~~ held a valid professional engineer's license in
 80 another state for 15 years and has had 20 years of continuous
 81 professional-level engineering experience;

82 2. ~~Has received a doctorate degree in engineering from an~~
 83 ~~institution that has an undergraduate engineering degree program~~
 84 ~~which is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering~~
 85 ~~Technology; or~~

86 3. ~~Has received a doctorate degree in engineering and has~~
 87 ~~taught engineering full time for at least 3 years, at the~~
 88 ~~baccalaureate level or higher, after receiving that degree.~~

89 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 471.017, Florida
 90 Statutes, is amended to read:

91 471.017 Renewal of license.—

92 (3) (a) The board shall require a demonstration of
 93 continuing professional competency of engineers as a condition
 94 of license renewal or relicensure. Every licensee must complete
 95 10 continuing education ~~4 professional development~~ hours, for
 96 each year of the license renewal period, totaling 20 continuing
 97 education hours for the license renewal period. For each renewal
 98 period for such continuing education: ~~4~~

99 1. Two hours must ~~shall~~ relate to this chapter and the
 100 rules adopted under this chapter.

101 2. Two hours must relate to professional ethics. ~~and the~~
 102 ~~remaining 4~~

103 3. Four hours must ~~shall~~ relate to the licensee's area of
 104 practice.

105 4. The remaining hours may relate to any topic pertinent
106 to the practice of engineering.

107
108 Continuing education hours may be earned by presenting or
109 attending seminars, in-house courses, workshops, or professional
110 or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars,
111 conventions, or conferences, including those presented by
112 vendors with specific knowledge related to the licensee's area
113 of practice. Up to 4 hours may be earned by serving as an
114 officer or actively participating on a committee of a board-
115 recognized professional or technical engineering society. The 4
116 required continuing education hours relating to this chapter,
117 the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, and ethics may be
118 earned by serving as a member of the Legislature or as an
119 elected state or local official. The hours required pursuant to
120 s. 471.0195 may apply to any requirements of this section except
121 for those required under subparagraph 1.

122 (b) The board shall adopt rules that are substantially
123 consistent with the most recent published version of the
124 Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines of the National
125 Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, ~~for~~
126 ~~multijurisdictional licensees for the purpose of avoiding~~
127 ~~proprietary continuing professional competency requirements~~ and
128 shall allow nonclassroom hours to be credited. The board may, by
129 rule, exempt from continuing professional competency
130 requirements retired professional engineers who no longer sign

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131 and seal engineering documents and licensees in unique
132 circumstances that severely limit opportunities to obtain the
133 required continuing education ~~professional development~~ hours.

134 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.