

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 339](#)

**TITLE:** Licensure Requirements for Surveyors and Mappers

**SPONSOR(S):** Abbott

**COMPANION BILL:** [SB 320](#) (Gaetz)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Industries & Professional](#)

[Activities](#)

14 Y, 1 N



[Agriculture & Natural Resources](#)

[Budget](#)

14 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Commerce](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill creates an alternative pathway to temporary licensure for surveyor and mapper applicants. The bill requires the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers (board) within the Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services (DACS) to establish and administer the 1st Step Florida Surveyors and Mappers Credentialing and Licensing Protocol (protocol) as an alternative pathway to temporary licensure beginning January 30, 2026.

A person may now be eligible to take the surveyor and mapper licensure examination (examination) without having to satisfy the existing education prerequisites. In order to take the examination, the applicant only has to pay the required fees, and provide a letter of recommendation from their current or prospective employer who must be a licensed surveyor or mapper.

The temporary licensure expires on December 15, 2031.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The department could experience an indeterminate positive fiscal impact due to increased applicant fees from individuals utilizing the new licensure pathway. However, the potential increase in workload could require the addition of one regulatory consultant position to ensure compliance with statutorily required application processing deadlines. Currently, the program has one FTE responsible for processing applications, and without additional staffing, the department may face delays in application review and licensure issuance.

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

## ANALYSIS

### **EFFECT OF THE BILL:**

The bill requires the [board](#) to establish and administer the First Step Florida Surveyors and Mappers Credentialing and Licensing Protocol as an alternative pathway to temporary licensure. (Section [1](#))

Beginning January 30, 2026, a person who wants to be a licensed [land surveyor and mapper](#) but **does not** meet the necessary [education and work requirements](#) may take the [licensure examination](#) to practice as a surveyor and mapper in Florida if the person is of good moral character and the following criteria are met:

- The applicant has paid the \$125 [examination fee](#);
- The applicant provides a letter of recommendation to DACS from his or her employer or a prospective employer who is a licensed land surveyor or mapper; and (Section [1](#))
- The applicant has at least four years of experience working under a licensed surveyor or mapper.

A temporary license granted under the protocol expires on December 15, 2031. DACS is required to notify applicants for such licensure of the expiration date. (Section [1](#))

**STORAGE NAME:** h0339c.ANR

**DATE:** 3/26/2025

Applicants granted a license under the protocol must meet the standard education and work experience requirements after the temporary license expires and become licensed, if they wish to continue to [practice](#) as a surveyor and mapper. (Section [1](#))

This provision is exempt from the prohibition on licensure based [solely on a passing exam score](#) provided in [s. 472.015\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#) (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#))

#### **RULEMAKING:**

Agency rules may have to be amended to implement the application process for a temporary license.

***Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.***

#### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

##### **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

The department could experience an indeterminate positive fiscal impact due to increased applicant fees from individuals utilizing the new licensure pathway. However, the potential increase in workload will likely require the addition of one regulatory consultant position to ensure compliance with statutorily required application processing deadlines. Currently, the program has only one FTE responsible for processing applications, and without additional staffing, the department may face delays in application review and licensure issuance.

##### **PRIVATE SECTOR:**

The bill creates an alternative pathway to temporary licensure as a substitute for the degree requirements which may allow more people to practice as a surveyor and mapper.

## **RELEVANT INFORMATION**

#### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW:**

##### **[Land Surveying and Mapping](#)**

Chapter 472, F.S., governs the practice of land surveying and mapping in Florida. Through the [board](#), DACS licenses and regulates professional surveyors and mappers in the state.<sup>1</sup>

These regulations include, but are not limited to:<sup>2</sup>

- Examination;
- Licensure, including certificates of authorization;
- Continuing education;
- Standards of practice; and
- Disciplinary guidelines.

According to DACS, to [practice](#), licensed surveyors and mappers make exact measurements and determine property boundaries. They provide data relevant to the shape, contour, gravitation, location, elevation or

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<sup>1</sup> S. [472.007, F.S.](#)

<sup>2</sup> See ch. [472, F.S.](#)

dimension of land or land features on or near the earth's surface for engineering, mapmaking, mining, land evaluation, construction and other purposes.<sup>3</sup>

The Board has authority to adopt rules to implement ch. 472, F.S., subject to approval by DACS.<sup>4</sup>

### **Licensing Examinations**

All pathways to licensure as a professional surveyor and mapper in Florida require at least a four-year college degree, work experience, and an examination. The [education and work experience](#) prerequisites to take the licensure examination to practice as a surveyor and mapper are as follows:<sup>5</sup>

- A bachelor's degree in surveying and mapping or in a similarly titled program, with:
  - Four or more years of work experience under a professional surveyor;
  - All four years of work experience must have been in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying work performed; or
- A bachelor's degree in a course of study other than surveying and mapping, with:
  - Six or more years of work experience under a professional surveyor;
  - Five of the six years of experience must have been in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying work performed; and
  - A minimum of 25 semester hours from a college or university approved by the board in surveying and mapping subjects or in any combination of courses in civil engineering, surveying, mapping, mathematics, photogrammetry, forestry, or land law and the physical sciences.

An applicant who is not otherwise qualified for licensure is not entitled to licensure [solely based on a passing score](#) on the required examination.<sup>6</sup>

### **Examination Fee**

The board, by rule,<sup>7</sup> is authorized to establish examination fees. The initial application and examination fee must not exceed \$125 plus the actual per applicant cost to DACS to purchase the examination from the National Council of Engineering Examiners or a similar national organization. The examination fee must be sufficient to cover the cost of obtaining and administering the examination and is refundable if the applicant is found ineligible to sit for the examination. The application fee is nonrefundable.<sup>8</sup>

### **OTHER RESOURCES:**

[Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Surveyor/Mapper Licensing](#)

[Florida Surveying & Mapping Society, FAQ: How to Become a Licensed Surveyor](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Consumer Services, *Surveyors and Mappers*, <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Surveyors-and-Mappers> (last visited Feb. 19, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> S. 472.008, F.S.

<sup>5</sup> See s. 472.013, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> S. 472.015(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> R. 5J-17.070, F.A.C.

<sup>8</sup> S. 472.011, F.S.

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Industries &amp; Professional Activities Subcommittee</a>	14 Y, 1 N	3/6/2025	Anstead	Thompson
<a href="#">Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee</a>	14 Y, 0 N, As CS		Topp	Thomas
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	The amendment adds an additional requirement for a person desiring to be licensed as a surveyor and mapper who does not meet the requirements imposed under subsection (2).			
<a href="#">Commerce Committee</a>				

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THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.  
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