

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

BILL: SB 874

INTRODUCER: Senator Gaetz

SUBJECT: Professional Licensure Reciprocity for the Practice of Surveying and Mapping

DATE: January 12, 2026 REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Renner	McKay	CM	Favorable
2.		AEG	
3.		RC	

I. Summary:

SB 874 amends s. 472.015, F.S., to revise the requirements for surveying and mapping applicants seeking licensure by endorsement from the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers (board), under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The criteria applies to applicants from outside the state who:

- Hold a valid license to practice as a surveyor and mapper in another U.S. state or territory;
- Are in good standing with the licensing authority of that jurisdiction; and
- Has at least 5 years of active practice as a licensed surveyor and mapper, which must indicate that the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the board to require and independently evaluate certain documents and information. The bill grants the board rulemaking authority.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Land Surveying and Mapping

Chapter 472, F.S., governs the practice of land surveying and mapping in Florida. Surveyors and mappers are regulated and licensed by the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers (board) under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).¹

¹ Section 472.007, F.S.

These regulations include, but are not limited to:²

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

Licensed professional surveyors and mappers determine and display the facts of size, shape, topography, tidal datum planes, legal or geodetic location or relation, and orientation of improved or unimproved real property through direct measurement or from certifiable measurement through accepted photogrammetric procedures.³

Examination Prerequisites

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:⁴

- 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.

Licensure by Endorsement

To be licensed by endorsement as a professional surveyor and mapper by the board, an out-of-state applicant must fulfill one of the following criteria to qualify for the examination:⁵

- Grandfathered path:
 - Possesses a valid license to practice surveying and mapping in another state or territory that was issued prior to July 1, 1999;
 - Passed an exam that is substantially equivalent to Florida's surveyor and mapper exam requirements;⁶ and

² See ch. 472, F.S.

³ Section 472.005(3), F.S.

⁴ See s. 472.013, F.S.

⁵ Section 472.015(5)(a), F.S.

⁶ See s. 472.013, F.S.

- Holds a specific experience record of at least 8 years as a subordinate to a registered surveyor and mapper in the active practice of surveying and mapping, with 6 years in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed.
- Substantial equivalent standards option:
 - Holds a valid license for surveying and mapping from another state or territory, regardless of issue date, as long as the criteria for obtaining that license were substantially similar to Florida's licensure requirements at the time the license was granted.

All endorsement applicants must pass the Florida law and rules portion of the exam before licensure.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 874 amends s. 472.015, F.S., to revise the requirements for surveying and mapping applicants eligible to be qualified for licensure by endorsement by the board to include applicants from outside the state who meet the following requirements:

- Holds a valid license to practice as a surveyor and mapper in another U.S. state or territory;
- Is in good standing with the licensing authority of that jurisdiction; and
- Has at least 5 years of active practice as a licensed surveyor and mapper, which must indicate that the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying and mapping work performed.

The bill authorizes the board to require documentation, verification, or certification from the issuing authority, and to independently evaluate disciplinary, regulatory, or competency records maintained by the authority or other reliable sources. The bill also grants the board rulemaking authority.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

⁷ Section 472.015(5)(b), F.S.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill may increase the number of eligible surveyors and mappers by expanding the eligibility for licensure by endorsement.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The board may experience minor administrative impacts associated with revising the application review procedures and adopting implementing rules. These impacts can likely be absorbed within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 472.015 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.