

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 #: [HB 879](#)

TITLE: Professional Licensure Reciprocity for the

Practice of Surveying and Mapping

SPONSOR(S): Boyles

COMPANION BILL: [SB 874](#) (Gaetz)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Industries & Professional](#)

Activities

16 Y, 0 N

[Agriculture & Natural Resources](#)

Budget

[Commerce](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill expands eligibility for licensure by endorsement for professional surveyors and mappers by providing an additional pathway to licensure for applicants who hold a valid license in another state or territory of the United States, are in good standing with the applicable licensing authority, and have at least five years of experience as a registered surveyor and mapper, during which the applicant was in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying work performed.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

Indeterminate. The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government and the private sector.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill expands [licensure by endorsement](#) eligibility for [professional surveyors and mappers](#) who:

- Hold a valid license in another state or territory of the United States;
- Are currently in good standing with the applicable licensing authority;
- Have five or more years of work experience as a registered surveyor and mapper; and
- All five years of work experience must have been in responsible charge¹ of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying work performed. (Section [1](#))

The bill authorizes the [Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers \(Board\)](#) to require documentation, verification, or certification from the applicable licensing authority and to independently evaluate any disciplinary, regulatory, or competency records to determine whether the applicant is in good standing. (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

RULEMAKING:

Currently, the Board has authority to adopt rules to implement [ch. 472, F.S.](#), subject to approval by Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).² The bill specifies that such authority extends as necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

¹ "Responsible charge" means direct control and personal supervision of surveying and mapping work, but does not include experience as a chain person, rod person, instrument person, ordinary draftsperson, digitizer, scribe, photo lab technician, ordinary stereo plotter operator, aerial photo pilot, photo interpreter, and other positions of routine work. [S. 472.005\(6\), F.S.](#)

² [S. 472.008, F.S.](#)

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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 bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state revenues.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill creates an alternative pathway to licensure 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 surveying and mapping in Florida. Through the [Board](#), DACS licenses and regulates professional surveyors and mappers in the state.³

These regulations include, but are not limited to:⁴

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

In the practice of surveying and mapping, [licensed surveyors and mappers](#) make exact measurements and determine property boundaries. They provide data relevant to the shape, contour, gravitation, location, elevation, or dimension of land or land features on or near the earth's surface for engineering, mapmaking, mining, land evaluation, construction, and other purposes.⁵

Currently, there are 2,364 actively licensed individual surveyors in Florida.⁶

Licensure Pathways

Florida offers licensure as a professional surveyor and mapper through examination or endorsement. All pathways to licensure as a professional surveyor and mapper require the applicant to receive a passing score on the applicable examinations and to satisfy all education and experience requirements.⁷

Licensure by Examination

³ [S. 472.007, F.S.](#)

⁴ See [ch. 472, F.S.](#)

⁵ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Business Services, *Professional Surveyors and Mappers*, <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Professional-Surveyors-and-Mappers> (last visited 1/8/2026).

⁶ Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers, *October 2025 General Business Meeting Minutes*, available at <https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/120133/file/october-2025-general-business-meeting-minutes.pdf> (last visited 1/8/2026).

⁷ [S. 472.015, F.S.](#)

To obtain licensure by examination as a professional surveyor and mapper, an applicant must be of good moral character, receive a passing score on the Fundamentals of Surveying, the Principles and Practice of Surveying, and the Florida Jurisdictional examinations, and meet the applicable education and work experience requirements. The education and work experience prerequisites to take the licensure examination are as follows:⁸

- 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.⁹

Licensure by Endorsement

To obtain licensure by endorsement as a professional surveyor and mapper, an applicant must hold a valid license to practice surveying and mapping issued by another state or territory of the United States and:¹⁰

- The licensing criteria for the applicable licensing authority was substantially the same as the criteria that existed in Florida when the license was issued; or
- If the license was issued prior to July 1, 1999:
 - Have passed a national, regional, state or territorial licensing examination that is substantially equivalent to the Florida licensing examination;
 - Have eight or more years of experience under a professional surveyor; and
 - Six of the eight years of experience must have been in responsible charge of the accuracy and correctness of the surveying work performed.

All applicants for licensure by endorsement must also pass the Florida Jurisdictional Examination.¹¹

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N	1/14/2026	Anstead	Bunnell
Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee				
Commerce Committee				

⁸ [S. 472.013, F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 472.015\(3\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ [S. 472.015\(5\), F.S.](#)

¹¹ [S. 472.015, F.S.](#)