



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Final Analysis

Kelly Bomba

Sub. H.B. 202

130th General Assembly
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

Reps. Blessing, Duffey, Hood, Gonzales, Butler, Beck, Amstutz, Grossman, Smith, Wachtmann, Terhar, Stinziano, Milkovich, Perales, Thompson, Conditt, Anielski, Blair, Brenner, Brown, Buchy, Burkley, Damschroder, C. Hagan, Hall, Letson, Mallory, McClain, Retherford, Sprague, Winburn, Young, Batchelder

Sens. Bacon, Burke, Coley, Eklund, Peterson, Seitz, Uecker

Effective date: June 3, 2014

ACT SUMMARY

- Renames the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology "ABET, Inc." throughout the Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors Law.
- Requires, if an applicant for registration as a professional engineer has graduated from an unaccredited college curriculum, that the curricula be evaluated by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors and be found essentially equal to accredited curricula.
- Expressly adds a prerequisite for an applicant for registration as a professional engineer or professional surveyor: that the applicant first be certified as an engineer intern or surveyor intern; specifies requirements to obtain that certification.
- Converts the number of surveying course hours required for certain persons to register as a professional surveyor to semester hours from quarter hours.
- Eliminates the presumption that certain disputed continuing education credit hours, coursework, or activities submitted for approval comply with the Law.
- Extends the duration of a certificate of authorization issued to a firm, partnership, association, limited liability company, or corporation to two years from one year.
- Modifies requirements for reports that the Board annually must submit to the Governor.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

ABET, Inc.

The act renames the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology "ABET, Inc." throughout the Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors Law.¹ ABET, Inc., accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.²

Qualifications for registration

Under continuing law, unless otherwise exempt any person practicing, offering to practice, or using titles relating to the profession of engineering or of surveying must be registered by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (Board). A person who engages in these activities without registering or being exempt from registration must be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both.³

Professional engineers

To register as a professional engineer under continuing law, a person must have passed the prescribed examinations, have a specified amount of experience, and have graduated from one of the following:

- (1) An accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more (continuing law);
- (2) Under the act, a college curriculum in engineering of four years or more that is not accredited, whose curricula is evaluated by the Board and found to be of a high quality essentially equal to the curricula that are accredited by ABET, Inc. (instead of a curriculum that is not approved by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., as under former law);
- (3) A college curriculum in engineering technology of four years or more that is accredited by the Engineering (as added by the act) Technical Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc.⁴

¹ R.C. 4733.01(C) and (D), with conforming changes in R.C. 4703.30 and 4733.11.

² ABET, Inc., About ABET, available at <http://www.abet.org/about-abet/> (accessed April 7, 2014).

³ R.C. 4733.02, 4733.22, and 4733.99, not in the act.

⁴ R.C. 4733.11(A).



The act also requires a person wishing to register as a professional engineer to first be certified by the Board as a surveyor intern or engineer intern (see "**Engineer and surveyor intern certificate**," below).⁵

Professional surveyors

To register as a professional surveyor under continuing law, a person must have graduated from an approved curriculum in surveying or civil engineering of four years or more, have passed the prescribed examinations, and have a specified amount surveying office and field experience. Additionally, for a person who graduated from a civil engineering curriculum, continuing law requires that person to have successfully completed a specified amount of approved surveying courses in surveying and mapping arts and sciences to be registered. The act requires a person to complete 16 semester hours or equivalent quarter or trimester hours, instead of 24 quarter hours (or equivalent semester or trimester hours) of those courses. As under former law, under the act the Board may credit courses completed as prior studies toward this requirement, of which six semester or equivalent quarter or trimester hours (instead of eight quarter hours, or the equivalent semester or trimester hours as under former law) are in surveying of land boundaries.⁶

The act also requires a person wishing to register as a professional surveyor to first be certified by the Board as a surveyor intern or engineer intern (see "**Engineer and surveyor intern certificate**," below).⁷

Examinations

Under continuing law, an applicant must pass both a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination to be registered as a professional engineer or surveyor. The act eliminates the requirement that a "notice of intention" accompany the fees for each scheduled fundamentals or principles and practice examination.⁸

The act also removes references to written or written and oral examinations throughout the Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors Law, simply referring to them as "examinations."⁹

⁵ R.C. 4733.11(I).

⁶ R.C. 4733.11(B).

⁷ R.C. 4733.11(I).

⁸ R.C. 4733.12.

⁹ R.C. 4733.11(A) and (B) and 4733.13.

Engineer and surveyor intern certificate

The act adds requirements for an applicant seeking certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern. Under former law, when an applicant passed the fundamentals of surveying or fundamentals of engineering examination, the applicant was given a certificate showing the applicant's status as an intern.¹⁰ Under the act, to receive a certificate as an intern all of the following must occur:

(1) An applicant must submit proof of passing that examination;

(2) The Board must believe that the applicant meets the requirements of the Professional and Engineer and Professional Surveyor Law based on verified evidence;

(3) The applicant also must apply for registration and pay the required registration fee in accordance with continuing law requirements for an applicant for registration as a professional engineer or professional surveyor.¹¹

Continuing education

To renew a registration, continuing law requires a professional engineer or surveyor to complete at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years. The act eliminates the requirement that, in the case of the Board disputing the content of any credit hours or coursework, the Board had to presume as a matter of law that any credit hours submitted by a registrant, or any coursework or activity submitted for approval, complied with the Law if submitted and if a statement signed by a current registrant not otherwise participating in the event affirmed that the material was relevant to the registrant's practice and would have assisted the registrant's development in the profession.¹²

Business certificate renewal

Under continuing law, generally a firm, partnership, association, limited liability company, or corporation that wishes to engage in providing professional engineering or professional surveying services in Ohio and to use titles associated with those services must obtain a certificate of authorization from the Board. The act extends the duration

¹⁰ R.C. 4733.11(I) and 4733.13.

¹¹ R.C. 4733.11(I).

¹² R.C. 4733.151.



of that certificate from one to two years and sets the renewal fee at \$50 for biennial renewal, rather than \$25 for annual renewal as under former law.¹³

Transaction report

The act requires the Board, following the end of each fiscal year, to submit to the Governor a report of its activities of the preceding year and a complete statement of the Board's receipts and expenditures, attested by affidavits of its Chairperson and its Executive Director. Former law required the Board to submit a report by July 1 of its transactions, rather than activities, and did not specify that the statement of receipts and expenditures must be sent at the same time as the report.¹⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-11-13
Reported, H. Commerce, Labor & Technology	10-22-13
Passed House (98-0)	10-30-13
Reported, S. Commerce & Labor	01-22-14
Passed Senate (29-0)	02-04-14
House concurred in Senate amendments (98-0)	02-19-14

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¹³ R.C. 4733.15 and 4733.12 and R.C. 4733.16, not in the act.

¹⁴ R.C. 4733.09.

