



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Nicholas A. Keller

S.B. 154

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Burke, Seitz, Brown, Uecker, Eklund

BILL SUMMARY

- Renames the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology "ABET, Inc." throughout the Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors Law.
- Requires, in order for an applicant for registration as a professional engineer who has graduated from an unaccredited college curriculum in engineering to be registered as under continuing law, that curricula be evaluated by the Board and found to be of a high quality essentially equal to the curricula that are accredited by ABET, Inc.
- Requires an applicant for registration as a professional engineer or professional surveyor to first be certified as an engineer intern or surveyor intern and specifies requirements to obtain that certification.
- Converts the number of surveying course hours required for certain persons to register as a professional engineer to semester hours from quarter hours.
- Eliminates the fees for taking or retaking a Board examination for registration.
- 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 the current law requirements for reports that the Board annually must submit to the Governor.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

ABET, Inc.

The bill 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. 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 a Board examination, have a specified amount of experience, and graduated from one of the following:

(1) An accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more;

(2) Under the bill, 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 current law);

(3) A college curriculum in engineering technology of four years or more that is accredited by the Engineering (as added by the bill) 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 October 4, 2013).

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

⁴ R.C. 4733.11(A).



The bill 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 a Board examination, 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 bill 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 current law, under the bill 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 current law) are in surveying of land boundaries.⁶

The bill 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 bill eliminates the fees for taking or retaking a Board examination. Currently, the Board must establish a nonrefundable examination fee for professional engineers or professional surveyors, which must accompany the "notice of intention" for each scheduled fundamentals or principles and practice examination. The Board must set the fee at an amount adequate to cover the expense of procuring, administering, and grading the examinations. The fee for re-examination is the same as the regular

⁵ R.C. 4733.11(I).

⁶ R.C. 4733.11(B).

⁷ R.C. 4733.11(I).



examination fee. Currently, the examination fee is \$25 for the fundamentals examination and \$75 for the principles and practice examination.⁸

The bill 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

Engineer and surveyor intern certificate

The bill adds requirements for an applicant seeking certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern. Under continuing law, an applicant for certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern must pass the fundamentals of surveying or fundamentals of engineering examination.¹⁰ Additionally, under the bill to receive a certificate the Board must believe that the applicant meets the requirements of the Professional and Engineer and Professional Surveyor Law and that the applicant must apply for registration and pay the required registration fee in accordance with current 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 bill eliminates the requirement that, in the case of the Board disputing the content of any credit hours or coursework, the Board must presume as a matter of law that any credit hours submitted by a registrant, or any coursework or activity submitted for approval, complies with the Law if submitted and if a statement signed by a current registrant not otherwise participating in the event affirms that the material is relevant to the registrant's practice and will assist the registrant's development in the profession.¹²

⁸ R.C. 4733.12 and 4733.13(D), Ohio Administrative Code 4733-19-01, and State Board for Registration of Professional Engineers and Surveyors, Fees, <http://www.peps.ohio.gov/Fees.aspx> (accessed October 4, 2013).

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

¹⁰ R.C. 4733.11 and 4733.13.

¹¹ R.C. 4733.11(I).

¹² R.C. 4733.151.



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 bill extends the duration of that certificate from one to two years.¹³

Transaction report

The bill 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. Current law requires the Board to submit a report by July 1 of its transactions, rather than activities, and does not specify that the statement of receipts and expenditures must be sent at the same time as the report.¹⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	06-27-13

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¹³ R.C. 4733.15 and R.C. 4733.16, not in the bill.

¹⁴ R.C. 4733.09.

