

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

H.B. 742  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH30259-RO-9 (04/01)

Short Title: Clarify PE Licensure.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Arp.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL LICENSURE AS A  
3 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 89C-13 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 89C-13. General requirements for licensure.

7 (a) ~~Engineer Applicant.—The following shall be considered as minimum evidence~~  
8 ~~satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional engineer:~~

9 (1) ~~To be certified as an engineer intern, an applicant shall (i) pass the~~  
10 ~~fundamentals of engineering examination and make application to the Board,~~  
11 ~~(ii) be of good character and reputation, (iii) submit three character~~  
12 ~~references to the Board, one of whom is a professional engineer, (iv) comply~~  
13 ~~with the requirements of this Chapter, and (v) meet one of the following~~  
14 ~~requirements:~~

15 a. ~~Education.—Be a graduate of an engineering curriculum or related~~  
16 ~~science curriculum of four years or more, approved by the Board as~~  
17 ~~being of satisfactory standing.~~

18 b. ~~Education and experience.—Be a graduate of an engineering~~  
19 ~~curriculum or related science curriculum of four years or more, other~~  
20 ~~than curriculums approved by the Board as being of satisfactory~~  
21 ~~standing, or possess equivalent education and engineering experience~~  
22 ~~satisfactory to the Board with a specific record of four or more years~~  
23 ~~of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and~~  
24 ~~character satisfactory to the Board.~~

25 (1a) ~~To be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant shall (i) be of good~~  
26 ~~character and reputation, (ii) submit five character references to the Board,~~  
27 ~~three of whom are professional engineers or individuals acceptable to the~~  
28 ~~Board with personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience,~~  
29 ~~(iii) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (iv) meet one of the~~  
30 ~~following requirements:~~

31 a. ~~Licensure by Comity or Endorsement.—A person holding a~~  
32 ~~certificate of licensure to engage in the practice of engineering, on~~  
33 ~~the basis of comparable qualifications, issued to the person by a~~  
34 ~~proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United~~  
35 ~~States, the District of Columbia, or of any foreign country possessing~~  
36 ~~credentials that, based on verifiable evidence, in the opinion of the~~



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- 1 Board, of a standard not lower than that in effect in this State at the  
2 time the certificate was issued, may upon application, be licensed  
3 without further examination, except as required to examine the  
4 applicant's knowledge of laws, rules, and requirements unique to  
5 North Carolina.
- 6 b. ~~E.I. Certificate, Experience, and Examination.~~ — A holder of a  
7 certificate of engineer intern and with a specific record of an  
8 additional four years or more of progressive experience on  
9 engineering projects of a grade and character which indicates to the  
10 Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering,  
11 shall be admitted to the principles and practice of engineering  
12 examination. Upon passing the examination, the applicant shall be  
13 granted a certificate of licensure to practice professional engineering  
14 in this State, provided the applicant is otherwise qualified.
- 15 e. ~~Graduation, Experience, and Examination.~~ — A graduate of an  
16 engineering curriculum of four years or more approved by the Board  
17 as being of satisfactory standing, shall be admitted to the  
18 fundamentals of engineering examination, and with a specific record  
19 of an additional four years or more of progressive experience on  
20 engineering projects of a grade and character that indicates to the  
21 Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering,  
22 the principles and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing  
23 the examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of  
24 licensure to practice professional engineering in this State, provided  
25 the applicant is otherwise qualified.
- 26 d. ~~Graduation, Experience, and Examination.~~ — A graduate of an  
27 engineering or related science curriculum of four years or more,  
28 other than the ones approved by the Board as being of satisfactory  
29 standing or with an equivalent education and engineering experience  
30 satisfactory to the Board shall be admitted to the fundamentals of  
31 engineering examination and with a specific record of an additional  
32 eight years or more of progressive experience on engineering  
33 projects of a grade and character that indicates to the Board that the  
34 applicant may be competent to practice engineering, the principles  
35 and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing the  
36 examinations, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure  
37 to practice professional engineering in this State, provided the  
38 applicant is otherwise qualified.
- 39 e. ~~Long Established Practice.~~ — A person with a specific record of 20  
40 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a  
41 grade and character which indicates to the Board that the applicant  
42 may be competent to practice engineering shall be admitted to the  
43 principles and practice of engineering examination. Upon passing the  
44 examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure  
45 to practice professional engineering in this State, provided the  
46 applicant is otherwise qualified.
- 47 f. ~~Full time faculty.~~ — Full time engineering faculty members who  
48 teach in an approved engineering program offering a four year or  
49 more degree approved by the Board, may request and be granted  
50 waiver of the fundamentals of engineering examination. The faculty  
51 applicant shall document that the degree meets the Board's

1 requirement. The faculty applicant shall then be admitted to the  
2 principles and practice of engineering examination.

- 3 g. ~~Doctoral degree. — A person possessing an earned doctoral degree in  
4 engineering from an institution in which the same discipline  
5 undergraduate engineering program has been accredited by ABET  
6 (EAC) may request and be granted waiver of the fundamentals of  
7 engineering examination. The doctoral degree applicant shall  
8 document that the degree meets the Board's requirement. The  
9 doctoral degree applicant shall then be admitted to the principles and  
10 practice of engineering examination.~~

11 ~~At its discretion the Board may require an applicant to submit exhibits, drawings, designs,  
12 or other tangible evidence of engineering work which the applicant personally accomplished or  
13 supervised.~~ Engineer Intern. — To be certified as an engineer intern, an applicant shall (i) pass  
14 the fundamentals of engineering examination and make application to the Board, (ii) be of good  
15 character and reputation, (iii) submit three character references to the Board, one of whom is a  
16 professional engineer, (iv) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (v) meet one of  
17 the following requirements:

- 18 (1) Education. — Be a graduate of an EAC/ABET accredited engineering  
19 curriculum or of a related science curriculum which has been approved by  
20 the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
- 21 (2) Education and experience. — Be a graduate of an engineering curriculum or  
22 related science curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums  
23 approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in subdivision (1) of  
24 this subsection, and possess engineering experience satisfactory to the Board  
25 with a specific record of four or more years of progressive experience on  
26 engineering projects of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board.

27 (a1) Engineer Applicant. — To be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant (i)  
28 shall be of good character and reputation, (ii) submit five character references to the Board,  
29 three of whom are professional engineers or individuals acceptable to the Board with personal  
30 knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience, (iii) comply with the requirements of this  
31 Chapter, and (iv) meet the requirements related to education, examination, and experience set  
32 forth in this subsection. An applicant seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall meet the  
33 following requirements:

- 34 (1) Education requirement. — Possess one or more of the following educational  
35 qualifications:
- 36 a. A bachelor's degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET accredited  
37 program or in a related science curriculum which has been approved  
38 by the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
- 39 b. A bachelor's degree in an engineering curriculum or related science  
40 curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums approved  
41 by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in sub-subdivision a.  
42 of this subdivision.
- 43 c. A master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers  
44 EAC/ABET accredited programs.
- 45 d. An earned doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that  
46 offers EAC/ABET accredited programs and in which the degree  
47 requirements are approved by the Board.
- 48 (2) Examination requirements. — Take and pass the Fundamentals of  
49 Engineering (FE) examination. Take and pass the Principles and Practice of  
50 Engineering (PE) examination as provided by G.S. 89C-15, after having met  
51 the education requirement set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1           (3) Experience requirement. – Present evidence satisfactory to the Board of a  
2           specific record of progressive engineering experience that is of a grade and  
3           character that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to  
4           practice engineering. The Board may adopt rules to specify the years of  
5           experience required based on educational attainment, provided the  
6           experience requirement for an applicant who qualifies under sub-subdivision  
7           (1)a. of this subsection shall be no less than four years and for an applicant  
8           who qualifies under sub-subdivision (1)b. of this subsection, no less than  
9           eight years.

10          For purposes of this subsection the term "EAC/ABET" means the Engineering  
11          Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

12          (a2) Licensure by Comity or Endorsement. – A person holding a certificate of licensure  
13          to engage in the practice of engineering, on the basis of comparable qualifications, issued to the  
14          person by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District  
15          of Columbia, or of any foreign country possessing credentials that, based on verifiable  
16          evidence, in the opinion of the Board, of a standard not lower than that in effect in this State at  
17          the time the certificate was issued, may upon application, be licensed without further  
18          examination, except as required to examine the applicant's knowledge of laws, rules, and  
19          requirements unique to North Carolina.

20          (a3) Long-Established Practice. – A person with a specific record of 20 years or more of  
21          progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and character which indicates to the  
22          Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering shall be admitted to the  
23          Principles and Practice of Engineering examination. Upon passing the examination, the person  
24          shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice professional engineering in this State,  
25          provided the person is otherwise qualified.

26          (a4) Exceptions. – The following persons may apply for and be granted waiver of the  
27          fundamentals of engineering examination and admission to the principles and practice of  
28          engineering examination:

29               (1) A full-time engineering faculty member who teaches in an approved  
30               engineering program offering a four-year or more degree approved by the  
31               Board. The faculty member applicant shall document that the degree meets  
32               the Board's requirements.

33               (2) A person possessing an earned doctoral degree in engineering from an  
34               institution in which the same discipline undergraduate engineering program  
35               has been accredited by EAC/ABET. The doctoral degree applicant shall  
36               document that the degree meets the Board's requirements.

37          (b) Land Surveyor Applicant. – The evaluation of a land surveyor applicant's  
38          qualifications shall involve a consideration of the applicant's education, technical, and land  
39          surveying experience, exhibits of land surveying projects with which the applicant has been  
40          associated, and recommendations by references. The land surveyor applicant's qualifications  
41          may be reviewed at an interview if the Board determines it necessary. Educational credit for  
42          institute courses, correspondence courses, or other courses shall be determined by the Board.

43          ...."

44          **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015.