

State News for NSPE Members

Legislation to Sunset PE License Filed in Senate and Referred to House Committees

Legislation has been filed to sunset Chapter 471 F.S., and the Professional Engineers license effective July 1, 2024. The legislation, [House Bill 707](#), sunsets all occupational and professional licenses under the purview of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation beginning July 1, 2021. The bill was filed in the House Wednesday evening (Nov. 20), and the Senate version [Senate Bill 1124](#) was filed Thursday evening (Dec. 5).

The bill requires a systematic review of each license to determine whether final repeal will occur, but does not provide detail as to how that review will occur.

The Florida Engineering Society and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida feel strongly about the importance of engineering licensure and the accountability of the engineering profession, and will oppose the inclusion of Chapter 471 F.S. and engineering licensure in this bill, and will work diligently to remove those provisions from the bill.

- [Governor's Press Release](#)
- [HB 707](#)
- [SB 1124](#)

2019 Florida Engineers Management Corporation Annual Report Highlights

The [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) produces an annual report as required by [Section 471.038, Florida Statutes](#).

The report is submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, and the

Florida Legislature by Oct. 1 each year. It reports on the status of the corporation, including information concerning FEMC programs and funding, as well as information regarding licenses and complaints handled by FEMC.

A copy of the [2019 FEMC Annual Report is available for download](#).

Below are some highlights from the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019):

LICENSURE STATISTICS

36,526 – Number of PE licenses renewed

5,729 – Number of Certificates of Authorization renewed

6,136 – New applications received for licensure

3,728 – Applications for licensure approved

1,387 – Examinees passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam

1,169 – Applications approved for the Principals & Practice of Engineering (PE) exam

589 – Certificates of Authorization issued for firms to provide engineering services in Florida

672 – Certifications of Threshold Special Inspectors issued

54 – Days to issue a license on average.

LEGAL STATISTICS

195 – Complaints regarding engineering practices received, of which 140 were found to be legally sufficient

\$104,528.60 – Fines and Costs imposed

30 – Administrative Complaints filed in cases where the Probable Cause Panel found reason to believe a violation of the Florida Engineering Practice Act had occurred

92 – Final Orders issued against Professional Engineers

16 – Cases dismissed with a finding of No Probable Cause

13 – Cases dismissed with a Letter of Guidance

4 – Licenses revoked

6 – Licenses suspended

1 – License restricted

1 – License voluntarily changed to inactive

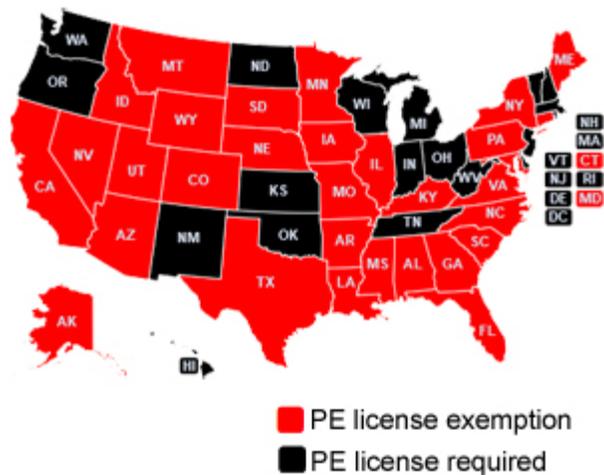
8 – Reprimands issued

4 – Probations issued

4 – Project reviews

6 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete course in Engineering Professionalism and Ethics

6 – Engineers ordered to successfully complete the Board's Study Guide on Laws



Will States Act to Remove the PE Exemption?

The National Transportation Safety Board has [identified 31 states](#) that currently do not require a licensed professional engineer on natural gas pipeline projects. The NTSB sent a letter to the governors of each of the states in the fall, urging them to end exemptions for gas pipeline operators and asking for an update within 90 days.

The NTSB issued [an investigation report](#) on the September 2018 Merrimack Valley gas pipeline explosions with two critical recommendations: first that all the states with license exemptions for public utilities eliminate the exemption, and second that a professional engineer be required to review and approve gas pipeline construction and maintenance documents.

When the NTSB began its investigation, staff reached out to NSPE seeking information about licensing exemptions. Through a series of conversations and emails, NSPE shared report data, information on the licensing process and requirements, and its position statement on licensing exemptions. As a result of conversations with NSPE and other organizations, the NTSB adopted a policy of addressing and eliminating engineering license exemptions within the gas pipeline industry.

NSPE's national staff continues to be in conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board and state societies on this issue.

State Actions to Date

The Virginia Society of Professional Engineers has offered to assist the Virginia State Corporation Commission Division of Utility and Railroad Safety in developing legislation to eliminate the current exemption for licensed engineers to prepare gas pipeline design and construction plan drawings. The Virginia PE board has drafted

potential language that can address this exemption in the state PE statute.

In Illinois, the state society is engaging with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to understand what actions will be taken to address the NTSB letter and recommendations.

The Maine State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers has reviewed the NTSB letter sent to Governor Jane Mills. A three-person subcommittee was formed to review the issue in detail and draft a response for the governor's office.

Is your state taking action? [Let NSPE's manager of government relations and advocacy know!](#)

A Call to Action

Call your members of Congress to express your [support for ending licensing exemptions](#) on public utility pipelines! The NTSB report on the deadly pipeline explosion in Massachusetts in September 2018 calls for a significant legislative change that NSPE has strongly advocated for years: elimination of professional engineer licensure exemptions.

Honor Your Fellow PEs

NSPE is filled with members who exhibit the best of the profession. Take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements of a fellow PE with an NSPE Honor Award.

Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the



- [NSPE Award](#) —the highest award given by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind;
- [Distinguished Service Award](#) —recognizes a licensed member for exceptional contributions to the profession, to one's community, and specifically to NSPE;
- [Young Engineer of the Year Award](#) —recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the community.

[Learn more about NSPE Awards.](#)

Now Available: Commentary on Construction Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee—a joint venture of NSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Society of Civil Engineers—recently released [commentary on its 2018 construction documents](#) . EJCDC documents are the first choice, and most user-friendly, among standard documents for infrastructure and public works construction in the United States.

EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

C-001 Commentary on the 2018 EJCDC Construction Documents , at 184 pages, contains in-depth descriptions of each of the 25 documents in the EJCDC construction series and explains their use. The commentary includes definitions of terms, cross-references and abbreviations, and a detailed discussion of terms and conditions.

The EJCDC construction series of documents assumes the design engineer is involved during construction. C-001 explains how to use each document in the series during the process. There is also a discussion of the *Contractor for Construction of a Small Project* document and its use.

[Access the Commentary.](#)

15 Free—Get Them Before They're Gone!

Earn PDHs with this year's roundup of [15 free courses](#) available to NSPE members, before they expire at the end of the year.

Develop and hone your professional skills without leaving your own workstation! Check out all of the 2019 free courses before the new year, including the four-part engineering ethics series and career development webinars.

[Access the courses.](#)



You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network

**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**