Threats to Licensure in Puerto Rico

Are there threats to licensure that could affect professional engineers and engineering in Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico is in the clear on potential threats, but if one arises NSPE’s State Watch tool will help members to stay alert. The tool allows easy drilling down by state, with threats categorized as

- Active threat—introduced in the current legislative session;
- Potential threat—prior licensure threats that could resurface;
- Enacted—signed into law;
- Consumer choice bill—allows unlicensed persons to practice professions that require licensure;
- Right to engage in a lawful occupation act—often assumes market competition is sufficient to protect the public and that licensure is unnecessary.

New Tools Available for PE Advocates

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It’s this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced webinar covering the organization’s background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed
professions, and the state advocacy tools it’s created.

You’ll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the main page of the public Drop Box, titled “State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL).” On this page, you’ll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at medwards@nspe.org

---

**Partnership to Bring Academies of Engineering to Puerto Rico**

United Technologies Corporation (UTC) and the National Academy Foundation (NAF) have partnered to expand NAF Academies of Engineering into Puerto Rico. The academies will boost STEM programs for under resourced public high schools in Puerto Rico (in addition to other localities in the US) with a $3 million funding commitment over three years.

The partnership will provide opportunities to bring professional engineering expertise into the classroom from the aerospace engineering services firm. It’s also an effort to address the technologies skills gap and boost the representation of women and underrepresented minorities into the technology and engineering workforce. “These academies will expose generations of students in Puerto Rico to STEM classes, mentorships and company internships, bringing to life what a future career in engineering and technology can look like,” stated UTC Chairman and CEO Greg Hayes.

Representatives from UTC and NAF made the announcement in Aguadilla on March 5 that Benito Cerezo High School and Elvira Colon High School will serve as the inaugural sites of the “school within a school” program. These schools were selected because of their proximity to United Technologies Pratt & Whitney and Collins Aerospace Systems facilities.

---

**NCEES Seeks Civil Engineers' Professional Expertise**
The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying is currently seeking licensed civil engineers to participate in a professional activities and knowledge study, or PAKS, for the PE Civil exam. The results of this online survey will be used to update specifications for the exam, which is used throughout the United States for licensing purposes.

NCEES requires a cross section of licensed professional engineers practicing civil engineering—including those working in industry, consulting, the public sector, and academia—to complete an online survey about the tasks and knowledge required of a licensed civil engineer with four to six years of experience to practice in a manner that safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The survey can be completed in approximately 40 minutes.

Click here for access to the online survey before the deadline of May 11, 2020.

Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They’re working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The March/April issue of PE magazine includes three articles highlighting PEs’ work in this area:

- “Climate Changers” – Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they’re increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.

- “Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation” – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.

- “A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions” – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.

Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?
These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four $50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in PE magazine and other NSPE publications.

Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.

Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to review their member profile and update their information.

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members’ email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

Update information and preferences.