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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs (SC-LEUA)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

March 5, 2008

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Present: (4) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman and Grothman.

Absent: (1) Senator A. Lasee.

Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Grothman that **Senate Amendment 1** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (4) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (1) Senator A. Lasee.

ADOPTION OF SENATE AMENDMENT 1 RECOMMENDED,
Ayes 4, Noes 0

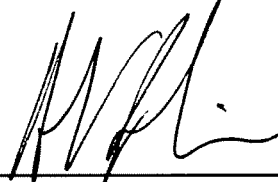
Moved by Senator Wirch, seconded by Senator Coggs that **Assembly Bill 69** be recommended for concurrence as amended.

Ayes: (4) Senators Coggs, Wirch, Lehman and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (1) Senator A. Lasee.

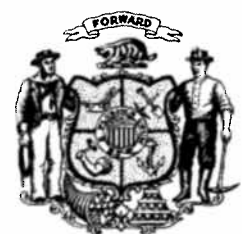
CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 4,
Noes 0



Adam Plotkin
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Vote Record

Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Moved by: WIRCH Seconded by: COGGGS

AB 69 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

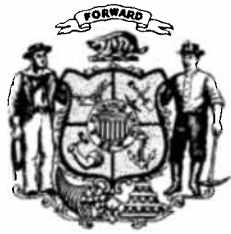
Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence *as amended* Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Spencer Coggs, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator John Lehman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Alan Lasee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	_____	_____	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





MARK GOTTLIEB

Speaker Pro Tempore
Wisconsin State Assembly

June 5, 2007

Rep. Mark Honadel, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry
Room 113 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Chairman Honadel:

During the May 30th executive session for Assembly Bill 69, the committee approved delaying action on the bill because of some concerns raised in a memo written by Paul Gabriel of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

The issue of contention is whether a person with an associates degree plus work experience should be allowed to apply for licensure as a professional engineer. It is my belief, supported by the recommendation of the Department of Regulation and Licensing's Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors, that a minimum prerequisite to obtain licensure should be a bachelor's degree from an ABET-accredited program.

In his memo, Mr. Gabriel stated that "Wisconsin and the world are moving away from fixed bachelor's degree credentials and toward a competency-based experiential world". With regard to licensing professional engineers, I disagree with Mr. Gabriel's assertion because I believe just the opposite is occurring.

For instance, after nearly six years of debate on the issue, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), a national non-profit organization made up of engineering and surveying boards in all U.S. states and territories, last fall adopted new language for their Model Law "of what will be considered minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional engineer." Not only does their Model Law require a bachelor's degree from an accredited program, but it also requires an additional 30 credits of advanced engineering coursework plus at least four years of work experience on engineering projects. The Model Law is attached to this letter.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) formally adopted Policy Statement 465 to advocate additional education beyond the bachelor's degree as a prerequisite for

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH DISTRICT

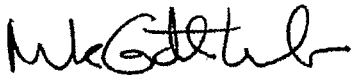
professional licensure. According to an engineering publication, "It based its conclusions on the steady decline in credit hours for graduation, from 150 a few decades ago to about 128 today. ASCE pointed out that increased requirements in nontechnical areas have further reduced the number of technical subject required. Moreover, while requirements are decreasing, the body of knowledge required to practice engineering is exponentially growing, as much as doubling every 10 years."

Finally, the National Society of Professional Engineers, along with its Wisconsin affiliate, strongly supports the NCEES model language for licensure. It "believes that a bachelor's degree in engineering from a program accredited by ABET's Engineering Accreditation Commission,...should be the minimum educational requirement for professional engineer licensure." It continues, "Some states explicitly permit individuals holding a bachelor of engineering technology degree to become licensed as PEs. This reflects a lack of understanding of the distinction between engineering and engineering technology...Engineering programs provide their graduates a breadth and depth of knowledge that allows them to function as designers. Engineering technology programs prepare their graduates to apply others' designs."

As you can see, the most respected engineering organizations reject the notion of accepting an associates degree and work experience as a minimum requirement for P.E. licensure. The engineering profession, for good reason, is expecting far more from future graduates in terms of educational experience. As I stated in committee, a licensed professional engineer is more than someone who stamps his or her approval on a project, they are morally and legally responsible for the safety, health and welfare of the public. With advancements in technology and the scope of engineering knowledge and fundamentals ever increasing, now is the time to strengthen the standards by which we hold our engineering professionals accountable.

While I sincerely believe that Assembly Bill 69 is ready for executive action, I am more than willing to discuss options with members of the committee so the bill can move forward.

Sincerely,

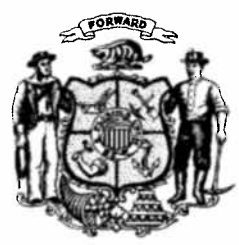


Mark Gottlieb
State Representative

cc Rep. Steve Nass
 Rep. Steve Wieckert
 Rep. Scott Newcomer
 Rep. John Murtha
 Rep. Tom Nelson
 Rep. Mike Sheridan
 Rep. Terry Van Akkeren



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Dear Adam,
Here is my
original letter expressing
the need for an amend-
ment to AB69.
Hope this helps.
— Thank s. PG



22 North Carroll Street, Suite 103
Madison, WI 53703

608.266.9430
Fax 608.266.0122
www.districtboards.org

Paul Gabriel
Executive Director
pgabriel@districtboards.org

June 15, 2007

Martin J. Hanson
Chair, Engineering Section
Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects,
Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Dear Mr. Hanson,



22 North Carroll Street, Suite 103
Madison, WI 53703

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Paul Gabriel
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June 15, 2007

Martin J. Hanson
Chair, Engineering Section
Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects,
Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing on behalf of Wisconsin Technical College District Board members to request the Examining Board's support for an amendment to AB 69. We hope you will support maintaining the longstanding pathway for Wisconsin Technical College engineering program graduates to earn the PE designation. As drafted, AB 69 would eliminate this opportunity by requiring a bachelor's degree as a minimum for all PE candidates.

We support efforts to assure the PE designation continues to represent excellence in professional competence and experience. The bill reinforces that every PE has earned the designation through a rigorous mix of professional experience, engineering education, and, without exception, performance on examinations. We support the bill's provisions that reinforce this balance. We ask only that the minimum of eight years of combined engineering education and professional experience allow for either completion of a 4-year degree plus at least 4 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work, or, completion of a 2-year Wisconsin Technical College engineering-related degree plus an additional 6 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work.

According to NCEES, many states offer a path to the PE credential without requiring a bachelor's degree. Fully 70% of states (16 of 23) reporting in the NCEES 2005 examining board survey provide a pathway to earn the PE credential without a bachelor's degree. The survey did not include Wisconsin, which has always provided such a pathway.

We hope the Examining Board will review data concerning Wisconsin PE's holding a WTCS associate degree in engineering-related fields relative to other successful Wisconsin PE's. We believe that the data set will demonstrate that there is no meaningful difference with bachelor's degree holders in terms of passage rates on the PE exams, levels of professional competency, or the likelihood of facing professional disciplinary action.

Many engineering professionals – both 2-year and 4-year graduates – never seek or earn the PE credential. However, eliminating the opportunity to pursue the PE credential may itself reduce the desirability of 2-year engineering programs and reduce the number of such graduates entering the workforce when more, not fewer, are needed.

Completing the bachelor's degree is not always a viable path for associate degree engineers, particularly outside of the Milwaukee area. Despite "2+2" bachelor's degree completion programs between technical colleges and MSOE and Marquette, most UW engineering programs transfer WTCS credits at a level that requires repeating significant course work.

The PE is a professional credential, not an educational credential. The recent national and Wisconsin experience with professional nursing is an important parallel to the current PE situation. Various authorities and model laws promoted a bachelor's degree minimum for registered nurses (RN's) in an attempt to elevate nurses' professional status. At the same time, Wisconsin Technical College 2-year Associate Degree nursing graduates traditionally pass the RN exam at just as high a rate (higher in many years) as Wisconsin's 4-year nursing graduates. Calls for the bachelor's minimum have subsided with a critical shortage of nurses upon us and technical colleges producing more nurses in more communities more rapidly than any other higher education system.

We would be happy to work with the Examining Board's Engineering Section and its staff to explore this matter further and to provide any data that is helpful. Please consider supporting an amendment to AB 69 that will preserve an important pathway for WTCS graduates, while also meeting Wisconsin's and the profession's needs for reform of PE licensure.

Sincerely,

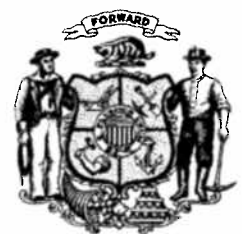


Paul Gabriel
Executive Director

cc: Tim Wellnitz, Department of Regulation and Licensing



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Jim Doyle
Governor

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
REGULATION & LICENSING

1400 E Washington Ave
PO Box 8935
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FAX: 608-267-0644
TTY: 608-267-2416

Celia M. Jackson
Secretary



JAN 24 2008

January 23, 2008

Senator Spencer Coggs
Chairman
Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
Room 123 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: Assembly Bill 69

Honorable Senator Coggs:

I am writing to you asking that your committee approve AB 69 and recommend passage to the full Senate at the earliest opportunity.

I am currently chairman of the Wisconsin Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, & Land Surveyors and chairman of the Engineers Section of the Joint Board; both boards have authorized me to speak on their behalf. I have been working closely with Representative Gottlieb on this bill and would be pleased to assist you and your committee in any way to understand and approve the bill.

By this letter, I will attempt to provide information on this legislation to inform and answer your questions to convey the purpose behind the changes included in Assembly Bill 69.

I am pleased that Representative Gottlieb has introduced this bill. I have been working on some of these changes since I was first appointed to the board five years ago. This legislation is strongly supported by the Engineers Section and is likewise strongly supported by the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, & Land Surveyors.

I am also happy to report that this bill has received the support of members of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI). The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Wisconsin Section members and Region 3 director support AB 69. AB 69 is consistent with ASCE's policies and recommendations on professional competence as those policies include and endorse written examination requirements. The bill has been

discussed by the Alliance for Technical Professionals, a consortium of engineering professionals and affiliated groups interested in legislation and rule making and how both affect the public health, safety, and welfare. I have also received letters and phone calls in support of this bill from my many associates in the industry.

This bill does three simple things. First, it streamlines the licensure process for engineers; second, it eliminates the review of examinations; and third, it eliminates the statutory need for testing in a specific area. All of these changes in the statutes for professional engineers are long overdue. I will address each change separately.

STREAMLINING LICENSURE

The current path to licensure in Wisconsin is very complex. There are numerous paths and branches as shown in Exhibit 1 from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing website.

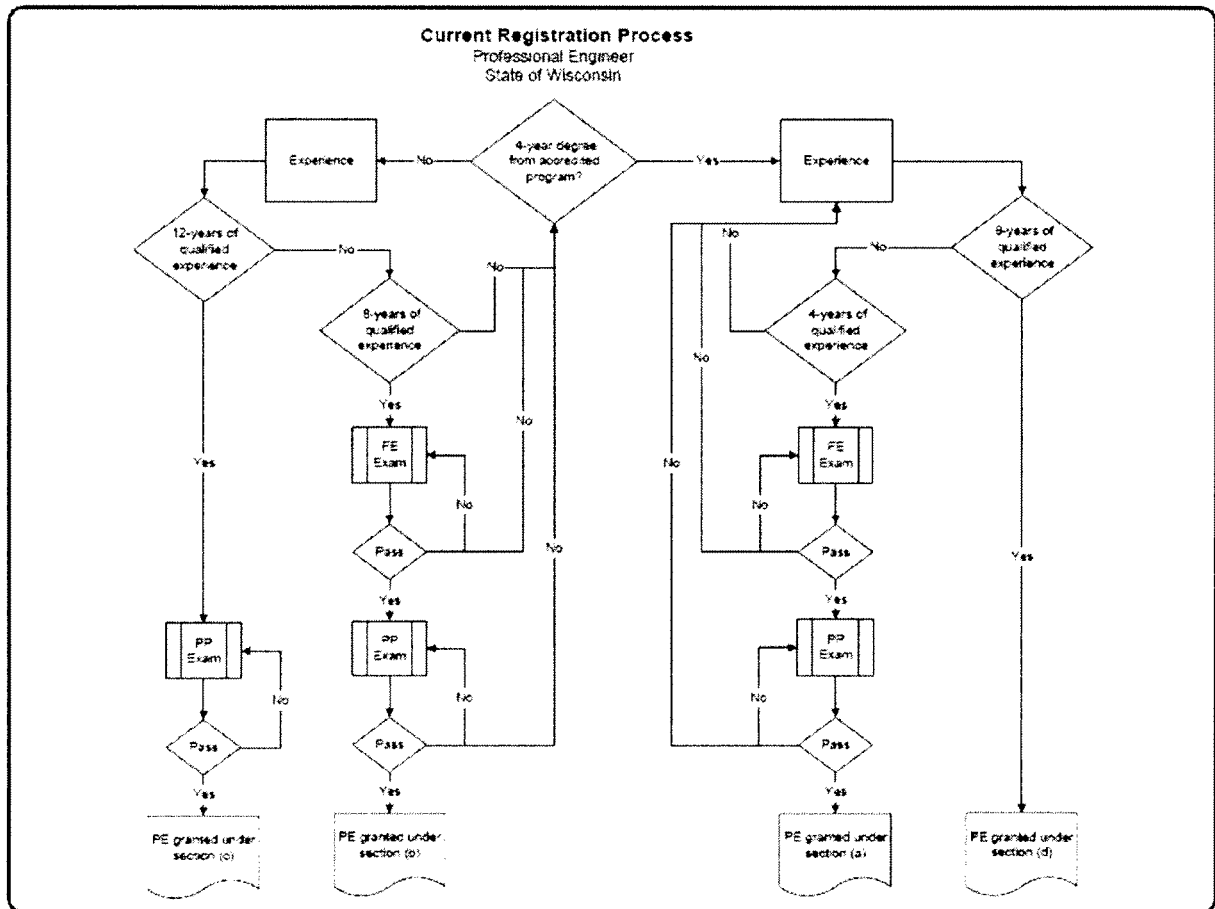


EXHIBIT 1

This bill eliminates all the alternate paths to licensure and prescribes a single path, one set of requirements, and one standard for all applicants. That path will be, in sequential order:

1. Obtain an engineering degree from an ABET - or Board - approved institution.
2. Pass the eight-hour Fundamentals of Engineering exam (national exam).
3. Obtain four years of qualifying engineering experience.
4. Pass the 8-hour Principles and Practice exam (national exam).

The most abused path to licensure in the current law is the approved degree plus eight years of qualified experience. This path forces the board, two of whom are public members with limited technical qualifications and knowledge, to make subjective judgments on applicants' qualifications for licensure based on the applicant's description of his/her experience. The board does not believe this is good public policy and fails our mission of protecting public health, safety, and welfare. This path is sometimes referred to as the "grandfather" clause or path, as it was likely enacted in very early licensure legislation to allow practitioners the ability to continue practicing. The legislation should have included a sunset provision for the "grandfather" clause; it did not, and this bill corrects that error.

AB 69 repeals this path and all other paths in the current law. Applicants will all have a consistent and standardized path to licensure. The Board will evaluate each candidate against the same criteria.

Examinations by themselves do not ensure the competency of any engineer. But we believe the exam is a far better and more consistent measure than a subjective review of a self-prepared resume of experience.

Professional engineers who obtain their license in Wisconsin by this "grandfather" clause are severely disadvantaged in other states when applying for licensure by comity. Most states do not recognize or accept the Wisconsin license granted by experience because it was not obtained by the more common examination path. Wisconsin professional engineers typically must take the Principles and Practice exam in the state in which they wish to practice. Requiring all Wisconsin engineers to obtain licensure by examination will make it easier for them to obtain licenses in other states where they may be working on projects. This will provide more opportunities for Wisconsin professional engineers while at the same time providing better protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

This new legislation should be enacted immediately, and there should be no phase-in of the new process. The Engineers Section predominantly sees applications for licensure in this path in two scenarios.

Applicants who fail to pass Principles and Practice exam

We have seen a number of applicants who have failed the Principle and Practice examination, once or several times, simply wait an additional four years and reapply under the "grandfather" clause. Some of these applicants will even state in their application that they are applying because they have failed the exam. Furthermore, some of those who have

been denied licensure under the "grandfather" clause openly state on appeal during their hearing that they don't want to take the exam or believe they cannot pass the exam. The "grandfather" path is unquestionably the easier path to licensure. It is also the most subjective, and therefore we believe it is an inappropriate process to grant the responsibility a professional engineer license conveys. The Board should have clear evidence sufficient to support a strong recommendation for licensure for all applicants who are granted a license to practice. We can only have this sufficient evidence by having consistent criteria to measure against. We believe the criteria should be the ability to pass the Principles and Practice examination. The inability of an applicant to pass the exam raises some doubt as to his or her competence, regardless of the applicant's experience.

Applicants from out-of-state

We are seeing an increase in the number of applicants under the "grandfather" clause who are residents of states other than Wisconsin. This is because Wisconsin may be the only state remaining with this experience path to licensure. Our lower application and renewal fees also make Wisconsin an attractive state in which to obtain licensure. Many of these applicants have significantly more experience than the required eight years. These are typically people who are looking to simply add a credential to their resume for an increase in their personal compensation, status, or other reasons outside the interests of the objective of licensure. Granting licenses in this manner is not within our mission to protect public health, safety, and welfare and extends our intended jurisdictional reach far beyond the borders of Wisconsin. We believe this to be an inappropriate use of our resources and not a good path to a professional credential.

It is not surprising that engineers in the industry across the country generally regard those who have obtained licensure by examination to have met a higher standard than those who have obtained the credential by experience only.

The bill requires a four-year ABET or degree or a similar degree subject to Board approval. The bill would preclude graduates from a two-year or other non-ABET or technical program from licensure. We believe this to be proper. There are currently proposals in various stages of approval that would increase the educational requirement for licensure beyond the four-year degree; Wisconsin should not be potentially jeopardizing public health, safety, and welfare by having a substandard educational requirement.

It is also important to point out that this bill does not "fence out" people desiring to work in engineering. All private engineering firms and government agencies that employ engineers have a mix of licensed and unlicensed technicians. Having or not having a professional engineer license is not a barrier to employment in engineering. The professional engineering license is reserved for those who accept the responsibility for the public health, safety, and welfare of the engineering product. The engineering work, typically performed by a team, many of whom are not licensed on the project, is under the direction and responsible charge of a licensed engineer.

EXAM REVIEW

This bill eliminates the opportunity for an applicant to review his or her incorrect answers to exam questions.

The tests we use for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and the Principles and Practice exam are developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and are used across the country. An enormous amount of effort goes into developing the test question bank. The questions are tested for ambiguity, accuracy, and other measures to ensure they are a fair and objective measure of breadth and depth of knowledge. To facilitate testing and scoring, these tests are now multiple-choice and machine scored.

The existing legislation was enacted when the examinations were written longhand. Applicants would develop the solution on paper and submit their answers with supporting logic and calculations. These questions were then graded, and partial credit was granted appropriate to the correctness of the solution strategy contained in the applicant's presentation of the solution. In this method of examination, it was reasonable to allow an opportunity for the applicant to review his or her answer and potentially appeal for additional partial credit.

Multiple-choice questions with single unique correct answers eliminate the opportunity to score any partial credit and therefore eliminate any need for post-exam review. Currently if an applicant asks to review a question, we have to seek approval from NCEES and have a Board member present during the review. The applicant is shown the question text, the answer choices, and his or her answer. The applicant is NOT shown the correct answer. An unscrupulous applicant could review multiple questions in multiple exam administrations, all for the purpose of harvesting questions for either his or her own benefit (some questions are repeated in each administration of the exam to measure exam difficulty and consistency) or for unauthorized and illegal distribution and/or sale of test questions.

NCEES is concerned, and rightly so, about the security of the exam questions. There is considerable time and money expended in the development and maintenance of the test bank. To allow post-exam review of questions opens the State of Wisconsin to the risk of exam security breach. NCEES has indicated it may hold states liable for the cost of development and testing of replacement questions where the state's process did not ensure the security of the exam. NCEES has asked that we discontinue our current review practice.

We believe that there is no real purpose for reviewing exam questions in the current format, and we want to reduce the risk to the State of Wisconsin for defense of any claims against the state by NCEES or breach of exam questions. In addition, the Department of Regulation and Licensing and the Board can use their time and resources more wisely in tasks other than proctoring an applicant's review of unchallengeable test questions.

SPECIFIC AREA TESTING

The current statute contains language requiring the examination to “include questions which require applicants to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people with physical disabilities and of the relevant statutes and codes.”

This legislation was likely enacted in the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act implemented in 1973 and 1990. The intent was, logically, to raise awareness among newly licensed engineers of the changes to codes and design standards dealing with people with physical disabilities.

The need to specifically test for this attribute no longer exists. Many states and local governments have adopted the International Building Code. This document of more than 700 pages is revised every three years. It contains a section on accessibility, defining the term as the accommodation of disabled people in structures. This includes parking spaces, elevators, and restrooms. Local governments may pass ordinances to supplement these requirements. There are extensive resources available to design professionals dealing with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including the ADA.gov website.

We believe that design professionals and educators have been working within the requirements of ADA for more than 30 years, and it has become the standard of practice. The examination prepared by NCEES contains information on all subjects that will include ADA impacts where appropriate. Having our statute refer to a specific test area requires the state to prepare and administer these questions separately from the national exam—an additional burden on state resources with no corresponding benefit to the public.

I want to assure the committee that the removal of this language and requirement in no way whatsoever is intended to diminish the need for design professionals to work within design statutes, codes, and ordinances to accommodate the needs of those with physical disabilities. My uncle, an architect for years in Arizona, was a polio victim and used a wheelchair for most of his practicing years; I am indeed deeply sensitized to this issue. I again assure the committee that the removal of this requirement does not change the methods and practices of design professionals with regard to requirements for accommodations and accessibility issues for people with disabilities.

We believe it is no longer necessary to have our statutes specially call out areas for questions in the examination. To do so raises questions about other technical areas that should be considered to be included in the examination. The board has confidence in the national exams prepared by NCEES to achieve an appropriate breadth and depth of questions. This is a difficult exam and requires substantial serious preparation as demonstrated by the overall 54% pass rate in Wisconsin (first-time takers have a higher pass rate of 74%).

Mr. Chairman, in summary, the Engineers Section of the Joint Board and the Joint Board strongly support AB 69 and urge its passage at the earliest opportunity.

Senator Spencer Coggs
January 23, 2008
Page 7 of 7

This bill is needed to update the statutes regarding professional engineers. We need to have all engineers measured against the same standard to ensure the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and we need to make Wisconsin engineers competitive in the national economy.

We need to eliminate the opportunity for applicants to review test questions. This practice is outdated and no longer serves any real purpose. It does subject the state to a risk of liability for breaches of exam security.

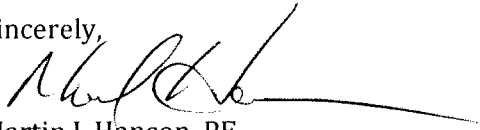
Finally, we can eliminate the statute requirement for single, specialized topics because it also has outlived its purpose.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. I can be reached at 715.834.3161.

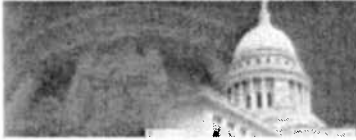
Finally, I urge your prompt action and approval so this bill can be fully enacted within the current legislative session.

Thank you for your attention.

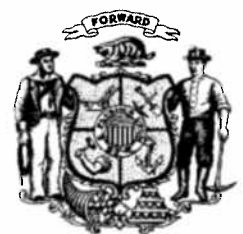
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin J. Hanson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin J. Hanson, PE
Chairman, Wisconsin Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional
Engineers, Designers, & Land Surveyors
Chairman, Engineers Section of the Wisconsin Joint Board of Architects, Landscape
Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, & Land Surveyors



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





MARK GOTTLIEB

Speaker Pro Tempore
Wisconsin State Assembly

JAN 28 2008

January 25, 2008

Senator Spencer Coggs, Chairman
Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
Room 123 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Chairman Coggs:

I am writing to respectfully request that you hold a hearing on Assembly Bill 69, relating to registration requirements for professional engineers.

I understand that you have received a letter from Marty Hanson, Chairman of the Joint Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors (Joint Board) at the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL), urging you to move forward on the bill. I will not repeat the well-written arguments Mr. Hanson makes for this legislation, but I will say that I agree strongly with its message.

As you will note from Assembly Bill 69's history, it passed the Assembly on a voice vote after an amendment by Rep. Molepske was tabled. Rep. Molepske's amendment would have allowed persons with a two-year associates degree plus four years of experience in engineering work to take the exam. I conveyed to him that I understood his position but I would not support it because it ran contrary to the objective of the bill, which is to bring Wisconsin's licensure more into line with emerging national standards. On what was a particularly partisan day, the amendment failed and a motion for suspension of the rules for third reading did not pass.

The Joint Board at DRL strongly opposed Rep. Molepske's amendment in a letter to Assembly members and I previously communicated my opposition to members of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry. I have attached the letter so you better understand the reasoning behind it.

I agree with the Joint Board that enactment of these changes is critical to ensuring the integrity of our licensure process and maintaining comity with other states. It is my hope that we can have a hearing and executive session on Assembly Bill 69 in time for the full Senate to debate the issue this session. If you have any questions or concerns about the bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

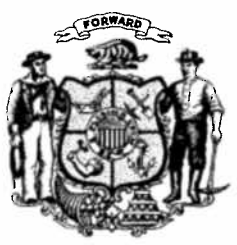
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Gottlieb".

Mark Gottlieb
State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH DISTRICT



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



AB 69

A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE

By Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow

February 5, 2008

There have been significant efforts to help Wisconsin emphasize the importance of science, engineering and technology as the foundation for a vibrant state economy. The goal is to encourage investment for new and expanded businesses to create jobs and an economic uplifting of all our citizens while preserving and improving their safety and welfare.

The engineers, technologists, and technicians who work throughout the State at its production plants, consulting companies, utilities, system software design centers, research and test facilities, state agencies, municipal service departments, universities, technical colleges and other training entities each play an important and distinct role in reaching the State's goal.

As these technical groups do what they do, the health and safety of Wisconsin citizens must be protected. But some state legislators influenced by uninformed interest groups seem to be confused about the implications of not improving old statutes and regulation which makes it very difficult to protect our citizens in regards to licensure of professional engineers. The roadblock also relegates Wisconsin licensed engineers to restricted acceptance by other licensing boards in other states.

Many decades ago, states decided the best way to protect the health and safety of their citizens was to have a licensing process for determining the competence of technical groups who serve the public and can impact their health and safety. One of these groups who have significant, direct impact are the engineers who design building structures, highways and bridges, sewer and water facilities and other critical structures or systems.

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wish to be “in responsible charge of” of statute-defined engineering work but do not want to demonstrate their qualifications by taking the usual exams.

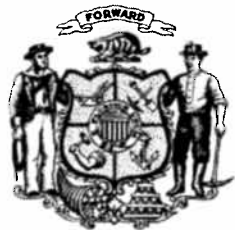
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





American Society of Civil Engineers

Highway Commissioner
Eau Claire County
2000 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: (715) 839-2952
E-mail:
tom.walther@co-eau-claire.wi.us

Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F.ASCE
Region 3 Director

February 21, 2008

Members
Senate Committee on Labor,
Elections and Urban Affairs

RE: AB-69
Professional Engineer
Licensing Requirements

Gentlemen,

I am a registered professional engineer practicing and residing within Eau Claire County. I also happen to be serving as Region 3 Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). I am writing this letter from this dual perspective.

I see that AB-69 is up for a hearing before your committee on February 27, 2008. This bill will clarify requirements regarding certain types of exam questions and will eliminate post-exam answer reviews by failed applicants. Most importantly the change will remove the grandfather path to licensure, which currently allows experienced applicants to skip taking the actual Principles and Practice exam.

The time has long passed where public health, safety and welfare can be assured by granting a professional license to someone who has simply worked in a particular field of engineering for multiple years without taking the written exam. Also, since Wisconsin is one of the few if not the only state in the union to allow licensure by experience and without the exam, our engineering examining board is experiencing a "run" of out of state applicants trying to obtain a license without the exam. The current law is not only poor public policy but it also does not insure that the health, safety and welfare of Wisconsin citizens are adequately protected.

ASCE, through several of its policies, recommends among other things that holding a baccalaureate degree in engineering plus 4 years of



Civil Engineers - Designers and Builders of the Quality of Life



Highway Commissioner
Eau Claire County
2000 Spooner Avenue
Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: (715) 839-2952
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Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F.ASCE
Region 3 Director

acceptable experience plus passing the written exams should be the absolute minimum level of professional competence required in order to be granted a license as a professional engineer. As a long time licensed professional engineer in Wisconsin I fully support these policies.

I strongly encourage you to vote for adoption of AB-69.

Sincerely,

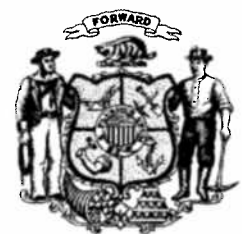
Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F. ASCE
Region 3 Director



Civil Engineers - Designers and Builders of the Quality of Life



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Glen R. Schwalbach [glenschwalbach@netzero.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 6:41 PM
To: Sen.Plale
Cc: Sen.Coggs; Sen.Grothman; Sen.Lehman; Sen.Wirch; Sen.Lasee; Sen.Plale; Sen.Cowles; Lasee, Frank; Rep.Gottlieb
Subject: Re: AB-69: a Critical Bill to move Wisconsin forward
Attachments: WSPE GRS ltr on AB 69 for eng'g exam 2-5-08.doc

Senator Plale, I apologize for not sending the attached memo to you as I did to the legislators who are copied on this email. I just read your proposed amendment to AB-69. AB-69, as approved by the Assembly, would correct a very bad situation in Wisconsin. But your proposed amendment would make this situation much, much worse.

I spent this past Saturday at a meeting with professional engineers representing other states discussing the need to accept the proposal by a national group which represents the state licensing boards throughout our country. That proposal says that the education requirement for engineers who want to become licensed professional engineers needs to move from just an accredited four-year B.S. degree in engineering to that degree plus 30 additional undergraduate or graduate credits meeting specific criteria. Today, these significant requirements are necessary to protect the public safety with more complicated technology and to catch-up to the credentials of engineers in other countries.

In this context, I was embarrassed bringing up the situation in Wisconsin as to the reason that AB-69 was being held up in the Senate. This was confirmed when I saw your amendment which would move the Wisconsin licensed engineer from being looked down on (because of the "no exam" option) to one who is laughed at (because of a "2-year" option).

I also visited with our local technical college and was pleased to learn that they know a "2-year" option to sit for an exam is totally inappropriate. They also know that only 10-15% of practicing engineers are required to be licensed by Wisconsin statute to be "in responsible charge of" other engineers and/or when doing work directly for the public.

I think your amendment will also threaten the disbursement of federal funds for engineered projects in Wisconsin because it will perpetuate the perception that Professional Engineers licensed in Wisconsin may not be qualified. Obviously, the Governor will not like this amendment.

I hope you will withdraw your proposal. I again apologize that we inadvertently did not get you the information that you should have had. I would be happy to speak to whoever was promoting this "2-year" option to you.

By the way, I was proud to tell the engineers at the above-mentioned regional meeting that Wisconsin has joined the almost forty other states by passing continuing education legislation for licensure. You can help Wisconsin from not "taking one step forward and four steps backward" in protecting the public from potentially collapsing bridges, sick buildings and wasted or lost tax dollars.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you for your time.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow
PROBITY Consulting, LLC
1090 Moonriver Dr., De Pere, WI 54115
Cell: 920-680-2436, Office/Home: 920-532-6330

-- "Glen R. Schwalbach" <glenschwalbach@netzero.net> wrote:
Sorry, I forgot to attach the attachment. Here it is.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow
PROBITY Consulting, LLC
1090 Moonriver Dr., De Pere, WI 54115
Cell: 920-680-2436, Office/Home: 920-532-6330

-- "Glen R. Schwalbach" <glenschwalbach@netzero.net> wrote:
Senators, AB-69 is in your committee and Wisconsin needs it to pass into law. It is twenty years overdue. I understand it may be held up because of some unfortunate misunderstanding of what it will accomplish. Please read the attached explanation. I would appreciate any feedback or questions.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow
PROBITY Consulting, LLC
1090 Moonriver Dr., De Pere, WI 54115
Cell: 920-680-2436, Office/Home: 920-532-6330

A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE

By Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow

February 5, 2008

There have been significant efforts to help Wisconsin emphasize the importance of science, engineering and technology as the foundation for a vibrant state economy. The goal is to encourage investment for new and expanded businesses to create jobs and an economic uplifting of all our citizens while preserving and improving their safety and welfare.

The engineers, technologists, and technicians who work throughout the State at its production plants, consulting companies, utilities, system software design centers, research and test facilities, state agencies, municipal service departments, universities, technical colleges and other training entities each play an important and distinct role in reaching the State's goal.

As these technical groups do what they do, the health and safety of Wisconsin citizens must be protected. But some state legislators influenced by uninformed interest groups seem to be confused about the implications of not improving old statutes and regulation which makes it very difficult to protect our citizens in regards to licensure of professional engineers. The roadblock also relegates Wisconsin licensed engineers to restricted acceptance by other licensing boards in other states.

Many decades ago, states decided the best way to protect the health and safety of their citizens was to have a licensing process for determining the competence of technical groups who serve the public and can impact their health and safety. One of these groups who have significant, direct impact are the engineers who design building structures, highways and bridges, sewer and water facilities and other critical structures or systems.

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The purpose of AB-69 is to close a "loophole" which makes it difficult to determine competence for the relatively few engineers who attempt to get licensed without taking the written exam. As engineering has become more complex and requires more depth of understanding at a higher level to produce safe designs, the Department of Regulation and Licensing has requested legislation to fix the current deficiency which would only affect engineers who

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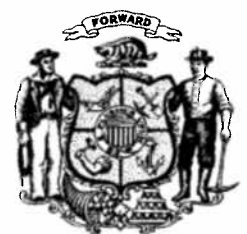
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While some Wisconsin legislators listen to suggestions to dumb-down the requirements to sit for the professional engineering exams, the rest of the country is discussing the new model for engineering licensure in an effort to better protect the public and to stay competitive with the rest of the world. That model requires an ABET-accredited four-year B.S. degree in engineering and a related Master's degree or equivalent.

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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Plotkin, Adam

From: Michelle Sommerfeld [Michelle@davelengineering.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 8:59 AM
To: woz5@aol.com; abarker@rvtcorp.com; bebent@foth.com; bgg1954@hotmail.com; bgomm@wppisys.org; bhigginbotham@new.rr.com; bob.reddog@earthlink.net; botto@new.rr.com; botz@stsconsultants.com; brian.ballweg@plexus.com; brian@martenson-eisele.com; clintsolb@aol.com; dalemcherney@bytehead.com; daverice@rice-inc.com; david.a.ozarowicz@dom.com; david.gerdman@dnr.state.wi.us; davidthurow@aol.com; ddghd@tds.net; dfsenf@senf.org; dhammond@foth.com; dick.bloomer@gasai.com; djuelmen@new.rr.com; dlmillier@wisconsinpublicservice.com; dmnelson@execpc.com; doug.senso@rasmith.com; dquinn@new.rr.com; dretz@dcwis.com; drudig1@wi.rr.com; drvreugdenhil@integrysgroup.com; efn1502@northnet.net; engr@sentinelstructures.com; fred@me-pe.com; freichert@foth.com; gdwilliams@mindspring.com; george@bullseyenet.com; gfarr@village.howard.wi.us; glenschwalbach@netzero.net; gminikel@manitowoc.org; gvierkant@foth.com; haug@lsol.net; jamesw@employs.com; jbharris@doorpi.net; jdmottjr@msn.com; jeffs@martenson-eisele.com; jehrfurth@mach-iv.com; jfroming@execpc.com; jjaschinski@stoelting.com; jkoskiniemi@upea.com; joehollister1246@msn.com; john@davelengineering.com; jparisi@foth.com; jstrouf@bytehead.com; keith.otto@neenaheng.com; ken.frahm@appleton.org; keng@buttersfetting.com; khrhodes@charter.net; larrywi@ci.green-bay.wi.us; leaengr@execpc.com; lengler@new.rr.com; lyle.berceau@jacobs.com; mfwesolowski@integrysgroup.com; mike.ignasiak@jacobs.com; mike.lefebvre@gasai.com; mikegigl@gbonline.com; mikes@martenson-eisele.com; mikhail.ventsel@kohler.com; mkvoss@charter.net; mmayer1@new.rr.com; mspielbauer@hoffman.net; netzelk@comcast.net; nikolayk@ayresassociates.com; nvandyke@foth.com; paul.eserkaln@gmail.com; r.hoslet@releeinc.com; ramprasad_g@yahoo.com; resteiner@wisconsinpublicservice.com; rgmosnik@integrysgroup.com; rheidel@new.rr.com; rhoslet@releeinc.com; rhs@eecltd.com; richard_j_liebmann@dom.com; rjohnsen@charter.net; rlnate@aol.com; ruslouk@ameritech.net; saanderson@wpsr.com; sgneuenfeldt@wisconsinpublicservice.com; smijeffg@choiceonemail.com; smipauls@choiceonemail.com; stanm@martenson-eisele.com; steveb@martenson-eisele.com; stsprader@aol.com; tebeejat@co.sheboygan.wi.us; tedhals@yahoo.com; tfrosser@integrysgroup.com; thomas.marquardt@grandchute.net; timg@brandercti.com; tjkinney@excel.net; tkortbein5503@charter.net; todd.gerhardt@kohler.com; todd.madole@gmail.com; tom.willis@kohler.com; tpjensky@wisconsinpublicservice.com; troy.stucke@kohler.com; tschuurmans@centurytel.net; vandoske@bytehead.com; wattleworth@stsconsultants.com; whippge@co.outagamie.wi.us; wkeller@marinettmarine.com; wkleine@plenco.com; talpe@aol.com; bab@charter.net; bob.givens@omni.com; cceltd@ccengltd.com; gwyounkin@charter.net; j.beier@craneengineering.net; jim.langman@ipaper.com; kennetzel@performancepowerservices.com; kgjrpe@aol.com; khaverland@larsenengr.com; kramer@ussilica.com; mikec@welchhanson.com; mjtill@charterinternet.com; perpich@stsltd.com; peter.cui@manitowoc.com; robert.reynolds@jacobs.com; sadler@foth.com; scottgrasse@yahoo.com

Subject: Urgent for WSPE Fox River Valley Chapter
Importance: High
Attachments: WSPE GRS ltr on AB 69 for eng'g exam 2-5-08.doc

Hi, all members of the Fox River Valley Chapter.

State Senator Coggs is holding up the bill for bringing professional engineer licensure in line with today's reality and to help other states recognize that Wisconsin's process is as creditable as theirs. The bill is AB69 which will require the exams for P.E. licensure in all cases. The State Assembly has already passed the bill.

I have attached the letter that I have sent to Coggs. Focus on the last few paragraphs. Please send your own message to Sen. Coggs at Sen.Coggs@legis.wisconsin.gov. We need a huge volume of emails or letters to move this bill through committee. This effort is to ensure public safety and welfare and to preserve credibility of your license. Thank you.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow
PROBITY Consulting, LLC
1090 Moonriver Dr., De Pere, WI 54115
Cell: 920-680-2436, Office/Home: 920-532-6330

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A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE

By Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow

February 5, 2008

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Plotkin, Adam

From: Reynolds, Bob [Robert.Reynolds@jacobs.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 9:53 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: Asembly Bill AB 69

Dear Senator Coggs:

I understand that AB 69 is currently being reviewed by your committee. I have reviewed the Bill on the Assembly's website and am asking that you approve and pass this bill on to the State Senate for consideration and vote. As a Wisconsin Registered Professional Engineer and manager of an engineering department, I rely on PE Licensure to affirm the technical capability of potential employees. The exemption from testing weakens our professional credentials and should be corrected with this legislation.

Thank you.

Robert W. Reynolds, P.E.
Process Department Manager
Jacobs - Green Bay Operations
920-347-1309
920-336-5291 Fax
920-858-8523 Mobile
robert.reynolds@jacobs.com

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02/25/2008

Plotkin, Adam

From: Kirk Haverland [KHaverland@larsonengr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 9:55 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Cc: Sen.Roessler
Subject: AB69

Dear Senator Coggs:

I would like to thank you for sponsoring this bill (AB69) in the Senate, as I believe it is long over due. Professional Engineers are licensed for very good reasons, and for the same reasons medical doctors are – public safety and welfare.

It is vitally important that the state of Wisconsin adhere to the same standards that have been established nationally for the licensing of Professional Engineers. By being more lax than the rest of the country, our state has done a disservice to the public and those engineers who were licensed under the reduced standards – they have great difficulty, and some are unable to gain licensure in other states where they might do business.

Wisconsin has a great reputation for being progressive in the sciences, we should be no less so in engineering. Professional licensing is required for those that are in responsible charge of the designs for infrastructure, buildings and other public and private facilities. Requiring those in responsible charge for these designs to adhere to commonly accepted minimum standards should be the minimum that we require.

As construction costs rise the pressure for reducing costs is getting stronger and stronger. For the safety of the public we need to insure that safety cannot be compromised for the sake of money. Requiring minimum standards for those responsible for these designs is one step towards insuring the safety of the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Kirk A. Haverland, P.E. SECB
Regional Manager

Larson Engineering, Inc.
2801 E. Enterprise Avenue, Suite 200
Appleton, WI 54913-7889
920.734.9867 Fax: 920.734.9880
khaverland@larsonengr.com



www.larsonengr.com

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02/25/2008

Plotkin, Adam

From: Michael Siewert [mikes@martenson-eisele.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:02 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: Engineering P.E. License

AB 69?

Please vote for the exam requirements.

I worked with a gentleman that spent numerous years going to night school to get his degree. He then could not pass the exam so he had to wait 12 years to get his P.E. He was a very nice person but was in no way qualified to be a P.E. I spent many hours correcting his work until finally we had to let him go.

Thanks

Michael S. Siewert P.E.
Vice President of Utility Services
Senior Project Engineer
Martenson and Eisele, Inc.
1377 Midway Road
Menasha, WI 54952-0449
(920) 731-0381
427-2359
www.martenson-eisele.com

The information contained in this email is for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may be privileged or confidential. If you receive this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message and any attachments. Thank you for your cooperation.

Plotkin, Adam

From: Scott Grasse [scottgrasse@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:08 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: Fwd: Urgent for WSPE Fox River Valley Chapter
Attachments: Urgent for WSPE Fox River Valley Chapter

AB69?

Dear Senator Coggs,

Because Wisconsin's Engineering Licensing regulations do not require passing the national exam our state's reputation is lax in the eyes of many other states. What that means for me personally is that I see my good friend from California able to bid on jobs in Wisconsin, while I am not allowed to bid on jobs in his state.

All that I ask is that you help level the playing field for Wisconsin Engineers.

Sincerely,

Scott Grasse, P.E., M.B.A.

Note: forwarded message attached.

Be a better friend, newshound, and know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. [Try it now.](#)

Plotkin, Adam

From: Lefebvre, Michael [Michael.Lefebvre@gasai.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:36 AM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: Assembly Bill 69
Importance: High

Dear Senator Coggs

It has come to my attention that AB 69 is currently being held up in the Senate as a result of amendments you are proposing.

Personal experience...In 1970, I received an engineering degree from Michigan Technological University and I have practiced for almost 38 years as a Professional Engineer in Wisconsin. I am currently registered in nine mid-western states and have always been concerned with the liberal registration laws in the State of Wisconsin. In the late 70's and early 80's, I was required, due to project location, to become registered in the 8 states surrounding Wisconsin. I made a mistake early in my career, by taking the PE exam shortly after I graduated from college. At the time, the laws in all of the other states, required four years of experience prior to taking the PE exam. Because I passed the PE exam prior to having the four years of experience, I was required to re-write the exam in the State of Illinois. Luckily, the other states recognized the results of that exam (through much effort on my part) and I was able to become registered through reciprocity. At the same time all this was going on, I had a number of colleagues receive their PE license in Wisconsin without an engineering degree and without having to write a single exam. I considered it an insult to profession.

Thought of the day...every time you drive across the high-rise bridges in the Marquette Interchange in Milwaukee, keep in mind that the bridges were designed by Professional Engineers...did those engineers show their competence through education and testing...or maybe, they were designed by engineers without the proper education and competency testing. Which do you prefer?

Action needed....I would ask that you take immediate action on supporting AB 69 as it has been passed by the Assembly. We need your support. For the safety and welfare of the citizens in Wisconsin, we can no longer afford to be lax on our Professional Engineering Registration laws.

Michael J. Lefebvre, P.E.,
Registered in the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota
Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana.

Plotkin, Adam

From: Berceau, Lyle [Lyle.Berceau@jacobs.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 12:09 PM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: Requirements for PE Liscensure in Wisconsin

AB 69?

Dear State Senator Coggs:

I understand a bill is pending which would require an examination of all engineers wishing to practice engineering in Wisconsin. I am fully in support of this bill for the simple reason that it is necessary for the safety of the Wisconsin public.

As one who has taken the exam and passed, I can vouch that it requires a minimum competence to get through. I have been alarmed to know of and see individuals who merely show years of experience and other criteria to get "accredited". I find this appalling, having worked in engineering for over 20 years and having run across various individuals who have the "experience" and the degree but who are not qualified. Years of service do not guarantee professional level which is why other states require the examination.

If individuals are qualified, then passing the exam should be no problem!

Sincerely

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02/25/2008

Plotkin, Adam

From: Whipp, Gary E. [WhippGE@co.outagamie.wi.us]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 2:37 PM
To: Sen.Coggs
Subject: AB-69

Dear Senator Coggs:

I am writing to you to encourage your support of Bill AB-69.

The professional engineer's exam is held in high regard to those of us who studied hard to pass it. It is defining moment in the life of any engineer who has completed their (4) year college engineering degree. I can tell you that it isn't until a young engineer receives that letter form the state board of examiners, that they finally feel they are truly a professional engineer!

It is indeed unfortunate that the definition of the word "engineer" has slipped over the years. It's more casual use, such as maintenance engineer or communications engineer, has misled students. It does not meet the minimum, rigorous threshold, which any (4) year accredited university engineering program has long understood.

When the 35W bridge collapsed in Minnesota, attention was focused more sharply on what professional engineers do year after year. We make calculations which affect the public health and welfare all the time: Bridges support massive loads, buildings withstand amazing climate conditions, airplanes fly, ships and trains deliver the goods, roads move society, water and sewage treatment are taken as a given. All these things and a lot more, happen because qualified professional engineers have the knowledge, experience and credentials to serve the public needs.

It is vital to keep the professional engineer's qualifications and standards to the highest level. Please, support AB-69

Sincerely,

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