

PROCEDURES FOR LICENSURE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HOLD AN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEGREE

On June 6, 2007, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford signed 2007 Act 58 which made numerous changes to the statutes governing the practice of engineers and surveyors in this state. A complete copy of this Act is posted on this website.

One of the most significant changes to existing law is the creation of an alternate pathway for individuals who hold an engineering technology degree to become licensed as Professional Engineers in South Carolina. The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors worked in concert with many groups to bring about the change; the Board believes the General Assembly has enacted a fair procedure and is pleased to have the opportunity to offer this alternate path to licensure until June 30, 2020.

Section 40-22-222, now states: “Through June 30, 2020, individuals who have graduated in a baccalaureate TAC/ABET accredited curriculum and who have successfully passed the NCEES Principles of Practice and Fundamentals of Engineering examinations, and who have completed eight or more years of qualifying experience as an engineer and who are otherwise qualified for licensure, may present their credentials for evaluation by a committee of Professional Engineers licensed in this State composed of no less than three practicing engineers, a member or former member of the board, and a professor of engineering. Applicants for licensure under this subsection must demonstrate sufficient rigor in their scope or depth of qualifying experience, such that the committee can determine that they can meet established standards of engineering practice. Only applicants who are approved under the review process may be licensed as professional engineers. Absent a showing of a change or qualifications to correct deficiencies identified in the review process, no application may be reviewed by the committee more than twice.”

The key component of this process is an opportunity to present a portfolio of specific professional work (three projects) along with a traditional application, documenting education and general experience. The portfolio is reviewed by a professor of engineering in the applicant’s discipline (e.g., civil or electrical or structural, etc.), licensed professional engineers, and a former or current board member to determine that the work meets established standards of engineering practice. An interview by the committee will confirm authorship of the work and allow the applicant an opportunity further to demonstrate understanding of established standards of engineering practice. The committee’s recommendation goes to the full Board for approval.

The application and other forms are posted on this web site. Once an applicant has been accepted into the portfolio process, s/he will receive specific information and instructions about submitting the portfolio of work, forms to use in assembling the portfolio, and other information. Because the process is multi-tiered and requires assembling six committee members, it can take six months or more for the portfolio process to run its course.

Questions may be directed to the Board’s Administrator, Jan Simpson.