
SENATE BILL 5984

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Murray and Clements

Read first time 02/12/2007. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to performing engineering services on significant
2 structures; and amending RCW 18.43.040 and 18.43.020.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.43.040 and 2000 c 172 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The following will be considered as minimum evidence
7 satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for
8 registration as a professional engineer, engineer-in-training,
9 professional land surveyor, or land-surveyor-in-training, respectively:

10 (a)(i) As a professional engineer: A specific record of eight
11 years or more of experience in engineering work of a character
12 satisfactory to the board and indicating that the applicant is
13 competent to practice engineering; and successfully passing a written
14 or oral examination, or both, in engineering as prescribed by the
15 board.

16 (ii) Graduation in an approved engineering curriculum of four years
17 or more from a school or college approved by the board as of
18 satisfactory standing shall be considered equivalent to four years of
19 such required experience. The satisfactory completion of each year of

1 such an approved engineering course without graduation shall be
2 considered as equivalent to a year of such required experience.
3 Graduation in a curriculum other than engineering from a school or
4 college approved by the board shall be considered as equivalent to two
5 years of such required experience(~~(:—PROVIDED, That)~~). However, no
6 applicant shall receive credit for more than four years of experience
7 because of undergraduate educational qualifications. The board may, at
8 its discretion, give credit as experience not in excess of one year,
9 for satisfactory postgraduate study in engineering.

10 (iii) Structural engineering is recognized as a specialized branch
11 of professional engineering. To receive a certificate of registration
12 in structural engineering, an applicant must hold a current
13 registration in this state in engineering and have at least two years
14 of structural engineering experience, of a character satisfactory to
15 the board, in addition to the eight years' experience required for
16 registration as a professional engineer. An applicant for registration
17 as a structural engineer must also pass an additional examination as
18 prescribed by the board. Applicants for a certificate of registration
19 in structural engineering who have had their application approved by
20 the board prior to July 1, 2001, are not required to have an additional
21 two years of structural engineering experience if the applicant passes
22 the additional structural examination before January 30, 2002.

23 (iv) An engineer must be registered as a structural engineer in
24 order to provide structural engineering services for significant
25 structures. The board may waive the requirements of this subsection
26 (1)(a)(iv) until December 31, 2009, if:

27 (A) On January 1, 2007, the engineer is registered with the board
28 as a professional engineer; and

29 (B) Within two years of January 1, 2007, the engineer demonstrates
30 to the satisfaction of the board that the engineer has sufficient
31 experience in the duties typically provided by a professional
32 structural engineer regarding significant structures.

33 (b)(i) As an engineer-in-training: An applicant for registration
34 as a professional engineer shall take the prescribed examination in two
35 stages. The first stage of the examination may be taken upon
36 submission of his or her application for registration as an engineer-
37 in-training and payment of the application fee prescribed in RCW
38 18.43.050 at any time after the applicant has completed four years of

1 the required engineering experience, as defined in this section, or has
2 achieved senior standing in a school or college approved by the board.
3 The first stage of the examination shall test the applicant's knowledge
4 of appropriate fundamentals of engineering subjects, including
5 mathematics and the basic sciences.

6 (ii) At any time after the completion of the required eight years
7 of engineering experience, as defined in this section, the applicant
8 may take the second stage of the examination upon submission of an
9 application for registration and payment of the application fee
10 prescribed in RCW 18.43.050. This stage of the examination shall test
11 the applicant's ability, upon the basis of his or her greater
12 experience, to apply his or her knowledge and experience in the field
13 of his or her specific training and qualifications.

14 (c)(i) As a professional land surveyor: A specific record of eight
15 years or more of experience in land surveying work of a character
16 satisfactory to the board and indicating that the applicant is
17 competent to practice land surveying, and successfully passing a
18 written or oral examination, or both, in surveying as prescribed by the
19 board.

20 (ii) Graduation from a school or college approved by the board as
21 of satisfactory standing, including the completion of an approved
22 course in surveying, shall be considered equivalent to four years of
23 the required experience. Postgraduate college courses approved by the
24 board shall be considered for up to one additional year of the required
25 experience.

26 (d)(i) As a land-surveyor-in-training: An applicant for
27 registration as a professional land surveyor shall take the prescribed
28 examination in two stages. The first stage of the examination may be
29 taken upon submission of his or her application for registration as a
30 land-surveyor-in-training and payment of the application fee prescribed
31 in RCW 18.43.050 at any time after the applicant has completed four
32 years of the required land surveying experience, as defined in this
33 section, or has achieved senior standing in a school or college
34 approved by the board. The first stage of the examination shall test
35 the applicant's knowledge of appropriate fundamentals of land surveying
36 subjects, including mathematics and the basic sciences.

37 (ii) At any time after the completion of the required eight years
38 of land surveying experience, as defined in this section, the applicant

1 may take the second stage of the examination upon submission of an
2 application for registration and payment of the application fee
3 prescribed in RCW 18.43.050. This stage of the examination shall test
4 the applicant's ability, upon the basis of greater experience, to apply
5 knowledge and experience in the field of land surveying.

6 (iii) The first stage shall be successfully completed before the
7 second stage may be attempted. Applicants who have been approved by
8 the board to take the examination based on the requirement for six
9 years of experience under this section before July 1, 1996, are
10 eligible to sit for the examination.

11 (2) No person shall be eligible for registration as a professional
12 engineer, engineer-in-training, professional land surveyor, or land-
13 surveyor-in-training, who is not of good character and reputation.

14 (3) Teaching, of a character satisfactory to the board shall be
15 considered as experience not in excess of two years for the appropriate
16 profession.

17 (4) The mere execution, as a contractor, of work designed by a
18 professional engineer, or the supervision of the construction of such
19 work as a foreman or superintendent shall not be deemed to be practice
20 of engineering.

21 (5) Any person having the necessary qualifications prescribed in
22 this chapter to entitle him or her to registration shall be eligible
23 for such registration although the person may not be practicing his or
24 her profession at the time of making his or her application.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.43.020 and 1995 c 356 s 1 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
28 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

29 (1) (~~Engineer:—The term~~) "Engineer" (~~(as used in this chapter~~
30 ~~shall)~~) means a professional engineer as (~~hereinafter~~) defined in
31 this section.

32 (2) (~~Professional engineer:—The term~~) "Professional engineer"
33 (~~(within the meaning and intent of this chapter, shall)~~) means a person
34 who, by reason of his or her special knowledge of the mathematical and
35 physical sciences and the principles and methods of engineering
36 analysis and design, acquired by professional education and practical

1 experience, is qualified to practice engineering as (~~hereinafter~~)
2 defined in this section, as attested by his or her legal registration
3 as a professional engineer.

4 (3) (~~Engineer-in-training: The term~~) "Engineer-in-training" (~~as~~
5 ~~used in this chapter~~) means a candidate who (~~has~~): (a) Has
6 satisfied the experience requirements in RCW 18.43.040 for
7 registration; (b) has successfully passed the examination in the
8 fundamental engineering subjects; and (c) is enrolled by the board as
9 an engineer-in-training.

10 (4) (~~Engineering: The term~~) "Engineering" (~~as used in this~~
11 ~~chapter shall~~) means the "practice of engineering" as (~~hereinafter~~)
12 defined in this section.

13 (5) (~~Practice of engineering: The term~~) (a) "Practice of
14 engineering" (~~within the meaning and intent of this chapter shall~~)
15 means any professional service or creative work requiring engineering
16 education, training, and experience and the application of special
17 knowledge of the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences to
18 such professional services or creative work as consultation,
19 investigation, evaluation, planning, design, and supervision of
20 construction for the purpose of assuring compliance with specifications
21 and design, in connection with any public or private utilities,
22 structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, works, or
23 projects.

24 (b) A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice
25 engineering, within the meaning and intent of this chapter, who
26 practices any branch of the profession of engineering; or who, by
27 verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other
28 way represents himself or herself to be a professional engineer, or
29 through the use of some other title implies that he or she is a
30 professional engineer; or who holds himself or herself out as able to
31 perform, or who does perform, any engineering service or work or any
32 other professional service designated by the practitioner or recognized
33 by educational authorities as engineering.

34 (c) The practice of engineering (~~shall~~) does not include the work
35 ordinarily performed by persons who operate or maintain machinery or
36 equipment.

37 (6) (~~Land surveyor: The term~~) "Land surveyor" (~~as used in this~~
38 ~~chapter shall~~) means a professional land surveyor.

1 (7) (~~Professional land surveyor: The term~~) "Professional land
2 surveyor" (~~as used in this chapter~~) means a person who, by reason of
3 his or her special knowledge of the mathematical and physical sciences
4 and principles and practices of land surveying, which is acquired by
5 professional education and practical experience, is qualified to
6 practice land surveying and as attested to by his or her legal
7 registration as a professional land surveyor.

8 (8) (~~Land surveyor in training: The term~~) "Land-surveyor-in-
9 training" (~~as used in this chapter~~) means a candidate who: (a) Has
10 satisfied the experience requirements in RCW 18.43.040 for
11 registration; (b) successfully passes the examination in the
12 fundamental land surveying subjects; and (c) is enrolled by the board
13 as a land-surveyor-in-training.

14 (9) (~~Practice of land surveying: The term~~) "Practice of land
15 surveying" (~~within the meaning and intent of this chapter, shall~~)
16 means assuming responsible charge of the surveying of land for the
17 establishment of corners, lines, boundaries, and monuments, the laying
18 out and subdivision of land, the defining and locating of corners,
19 lines, boundaries, and monuments of land after they have been
20 established, the survey of land areas for the purpose of determining
21 the topography thereof, the making of topographical delineations and
22 the preparing of maps and accurate records thereof, when the proper
23 performance of such services requires technical knowledge and skill.

24 (10) (~~Board: The term~~) "Board" (~~as used in this chapter shall~~)
25 means the state board of registration for professional engineers and
26 land surveyors, provided for by this chapter.

27 (11) "Significant structures" include:

28 (a) Hazardous facilities, defined as: Structures housing,
29 supporting, or containing sufficient quantities of explosive substances
30 to be of danger to the safety of the public if released;

31 (b) Essential facilities that have a ground area of more than five
32 thousand square feet and are more than twenty feet in mean roof height
33 above average ground level. Essential facilities are defined as:

34 (i) Hospitals and other medical facilities having surgery and
35 emergency treatment areas;

36 (ii) Fire and police stations;

37 (iii) Tanks or other structures containing, housing, or supporting

1 water or fire suppression material or equipment required for the
2 protection of essential or hazardous facilities or special occupancy
3 structures;
4 (iv) Emergency vehicle shelters and garages;
5 (v) Structures and equipment in emergency preparedness centers;
6 (vi) Standby power-generating equipment for essential facilities;
7 (vii) Structures and equipment in government communication centers
8 and other facilities requiring emergency response;
9 (viii) Aviation control towers, air traffic control centers, and
10 emergency aircraft hangars; and
11 (ix) Buildings and other structures having critical national
12 defense functions;
13 (c) Structures exceeding one hundred feet in height above average
14 ground level;
15 (d) Buildings that are customarily occupied by human beings and are
16 five stories or more above average ground level;
17 (e) Bridges having a total span of more than two hundred feet and
18 piers having a surface area greater than ten thousand square feet; and
19 (f) Buildings and other structures where more than three hundred
20 people congregate in one area.

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