

**Minutes for
The Florida Board of Professional Engineers
January 31, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. or soon thereafter
Valencia College, Gymnasium
Orlando, Florida**

A. Call to Order

Mr. Todd called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Kenneth Todd, P.E., Chair
Kevin Fleming, P.E.
Dylan Albergo, P.E.
Scott Drury, P.E.
Walid Sobh, P.E.

Staff Members Present:

Zana Raybon, Executive Director

Board Members Absent:

Pankaj (PJ) Shah, P.E.
Babu Varghese, P.E., S.I.
Vivian Boza, Public Member

Guest:

David Flynn, Assistant Attorney General, Counsel to the Board
Allen Douglas, FES, Executive Director
Fraser Howe, Jr., P.E.

- C. Board members were asked to review Chapter 471, F.S. and Rule 61G15, F.A.C. in order to make recommendations to reduce or eliminate restrictive regulations. Each board member present made the following suggestions as follows:

1. Kenneth Todd

- Review certificates of authorization to consider having companies register, rather than applying for a CA. This would be a no fee registry with no renewal. Discussion followed regarding what the statute requires.

- Allow for PE licenses that have gone null and void due to non-renewal be allowed to reinstate the license rather than apply for a new license by endorsement. We would charge much lower fee and allow for a more expedited process. The PE would also keep the same license number, which would allow the board to see the history of the license.
- See if we could get the statute changed to allow for a shorter period of time to waive the FE exam (currently 15/20) and the PE exam (currently 25/30).
- Consider lengthening the time to hold a temporary license or CA, instead of one project and one year. Also look at a more expedited process, like reciprocity, and then require additional documentation to convert to a permanent license.
- Consider accepting continuing education from other states rather than just FL-approved providers.
- Look at special inspector requirements for threshold buildings.
- Review the rule for full time experience and consider a change to define what full time means.

2. Scott Drury

- Define full time work. There was discussion about what Dept. of Labor considers to be a full time work week.
- Encourage legislature that would allow licensure with a technology degree and additional years of experience.
- Develop policies to clarify expectations for describing work experience on board applications.

3. Dylan Albergo

- Also recommended defining the work week for experience.
- Encourage legislature to decouple experience from the exam (allow for early exam).
- Also encourage legislature that would allow licensure with a technology degree and additional years of experience.

4. Walid Sobh

- Review current requirements for special inspectors.
- Also definition of the work week for experience.

5. Kevin Fleming

- Consider CE provider approval process and whether the board has the statutory authority to approve CE providers.
- Review rules to improve mobility such as allowing technology degrees and accepting CE credit earned from non-board approved providers.
- Also encourages legislature to decouple experience from the exam (allow for early exam).

Mr. Todd next asked that the members present review the top areas mentioned for more clarification.

Certificates of Authorization (CAs): Ms. Raybon asked for the board member to review 471.023 to make sure CAs could be changed to a no-fee registry and still be in compliance with the statute. Mr. Fleming shared his knowledge of the procedure in the state of Georgia. Mr. Fraser asked about the consequences if a firm did not register if a firm could be disciplined.

Null and Void Reinstatements: There was discussion about reinstating a null and void license and what the process would be. Mr. Fleming mentioned the process in Georgia, which largely consists of paying a substantial fee and the license is reinstated without any application or documentation. Discussion followed about a reduced fee to re-issue an old license and what would be required.

Waiver of Exams: There was a discussion about reducing the number of years of experience needed to waive the FE and PE exams. The board currently requires 15/20 (15 yrs. Of licensure/20 yrs. of experience) to waive the FE exam and requires 25/30 to waive the PE exams. Suggestions were made to reduce the number of years and also to consider allowing years of experience to waive the FE exam in order to sit for the PE exam. Mr. Albergo stated that many engineers fail the FE a couple of times and then never pursue a PE license since so many years have passed. It was mentioned that many states, like Texas, allow for a waiver for the FE if you have practiced for about 10 years.

Accept CE from other states: There was discussion about accepting continuing education (CE) from other states, especially for those engineers who do not reside in Florida. There was additional discussion about the number of hours required in other states and being able to accept all CE earned in another state if the state where the engineer resides has the same or higher CE requirement as Florida.

D. Public Comment:

The board members fielded questions from Jessica Younts and Neil Volz from the FL Rights Restoration Coalition regarding ex-felons being able to obtain licensure in Florida. Mr. Fleming stated that the board has no specific policies regarding prohibitions for ex-felon but instead the board looks to the rules and statutes for guidance.

Fraser Howe, who was representing ASCE, stated their organization has two main areas of concern, namely; 1) they support licensure of PEs to protect the public, and 2) they advocate for an engineering degree + 30 hours of additional coursework.

The board prepared four (4) recommendations for the group at large and Kenneth Todd, Chair, presented the following bullet points before the group:

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers makes the following recommendations for reducing or eliminating regulation:

1. Review rules for certificate of authorization to allow for registration with no fee or application.
 2. Create reinstatement process for null and void licenses rather than applying for new license.
 3. Review rules for approving CE providers and also allowing CE earned in other states.
 4. We encourage legislation that enhances mobility such as early examination and additional education pathways.
- E. At the conclusion of the presentations, the meeting was adjourned.