



FBPE
FLORIDA BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Connection

Linking You With the Florida Board's Latest Engineering News and Information

July 2022

From the Executive Director: How New Laws Affect PEs

By **Zana Raybon**, FBPE Executive Director & FEMC President

As most of you know, during the recent legislative session, [House Bill 375](#), which establishes the [Structural Engineering Recognition Program for Professional Engineers](#), was passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by the governor as Chapter 2022-83, Laws of Florida.

The new Section 471.055, Florida Statutes, which went into effect on July 1, 2022, states that the Board *must* recognize any licensed Professional Engineer who has passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Structural Engineering 16-hour PE Structural examination, or any other examination approved by the Board.



In addition, the Board *may* recognize any licensed Professional Engineer who specializes in structural engineering based on “alternative criteria determined by the Board.” The Board has been working diligently to complete the rules to implement this program and expects to have them finished very soon.

Applicants for the program can expect to utilize an online form, which will be submitted for the Board approval with no fee. Once the application is approved, the Professional Engineer will have a designation applied to his or her license that is viewable on the DBPR portal at myfloridalicense.com. Engineers who have met the requirements of the Recognition Program will be authorized to identify such recognition in his or her professional practice, as well as in marketing and advertising materials. Please note that this new statute is not a title act and, therefore, recognition by the program is not required to practice structural engineering or to use the title structural engineer.

You may recall from [our April newsletter](#) that [HB 7069](#), titled Condominium and Cooperative Associations, did not pass during the regular legislative session, leaving the state’s uneven condominium-inspections laws in place. However, during a special session, both houses of the legislature took up [Senate Bill 4-D](#), titled Building Safety, and passed into law the requirement for condominium associations and cooperative associations to have milestone inspections performed on certain buildings at specified times.

The law also authorizes local enforcement agencies to prescribe timelines and penalties relating to milestone inspections.

At this time, no rulemaking is required by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. The Florida Building Commission will have the authority to establish rules related to this statute, which also went into effect on July 1, 2022.

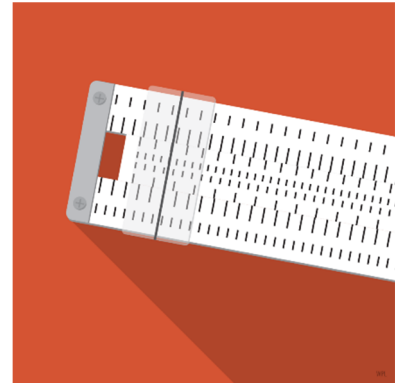
The Board staff will be updating our website and providing information via email as these changes to the law are developed. Be sure to check out our website at fbpe.org.

Chair's Corner: Experience Versus Efficiency

By Scott Drury, PE, FBPE Chair (2022)

I like to collect used books that have a story behind them. The books might not be worth much money, but the stories are priceless to me. My collection includes an assortment of different subjects, such as a Presbyterian hymnal from 1847, Naval Academy textbooks from my wife's grandfather, and various engineering references.

About three years ago, one of my former coworkers gave me a collection of books that he had kept at his desk for more than 20 years. This collection included an eight-volume *Cyclopedia of Mechanical Engineering* from 1913 and a two-volume *Appleton's Cyclopedia of Applied Mechanics* from 1883. Inside one of the volumes was a letter to an engineer from April 1919. How cool is that?



I think it is important to know where we came from as we look to the future. Not that we need to dwell on the past, but there are valuable lessons that we can learn from it.

I am always amazed as I carefully flip through the pages of these old engineering books. Someone figured out the foundations of my engineering knowledge, and they wrote it down and illustrated it in a book so that I could learn it. These people really understood how these concepts worked and did not rely on computer software. Can you imagine doing all calculations by hand, without the use of a calculator or a computer? Or, what if you were the one who developed the charts and tables in the codes and standards we use today?

Nowadays, we talk about having to do something by hand as “the long way.” But, for these people, it was just “the way.” We get to stand on their shoulders as we do our engineering work.

What if these engineers of old did not figure out new and resourceful ways to do their work but were held to the same fast-paced schedules and constant requests for changes that our clients ask from us today? What if engineers today were not as worried about keeping up with production and had the opportunity to delve into the fundamentals and to develop more efficient ways to do their work.

Some older engineers are stuck in the ways they have always done things and have no interest in learning new ways, even if these might be easier and more efficient. Meanwhile, some younger engineers are so reliant upon technology that a true understanding of the fundamentals is missed. Both types of engineers can have successful careers. However, finding the right balance of understanding, experience, and technology is key to keeping up with the demands of today.

[Rule 61G15-30.008, Florida Administrative Code](#), says: “The engineer shall be responsible for the results generated by any computer software and hardware that he or she uses in providing engineering services.”

The point here is that the engineer is always responsible for the engineering results, whether they are done “the long way” or by use of technology. Those that are using technology need to thoroughly

understand the methods behind the calculations and should be able to defend their engineering decisions based on those results, just as if they were done by hand.

This reminds me of a song called [Guitar Shopping](#) by one of my favorite songwriters, David Wilcox. In this song, a boy wants to learn to play the guitar. So, he buys an old guitar because he figures the guitar already has a life full of music and that experience will help him. The guitar is not easy to play, but that's how he learns to play. As he gets older, he starts buying new guitars that are easier to play. He says he still likes "the look of road-wear, but the roles have been reversed." While the old guitars are classics and have their own stories, after all this time, he now has his own stories and experiences in his life of music.

I think this has a similar application in the practice of engineering. When we begin our engineering careers, we should make sure we understand and apply the principles and look to those with more experience to help guide us, even if we need to do some things "the long way." But, as we gain more experience and really understand the application of engineering in practice, then we can use some other tools that help improve our efficiency.

As I said earlier, it is important to know where we came from and where we are going. Engineers have a long history of solving problems through the practical application of engineering fundamentals, although there are different methods and technologies that are used to do this. We need to be able to embrace new technologies while holding firm to our understanding and application of engineering fundamentals.

Renewal Checklist: 6 Things PEs Should Do

Licensure renewal begins in November for Professional Engineers licensed in Florida. Follow this checklist to make sure your renewal goes smoothly and you avoid last-minute problems.

✓ *Your CE credits*

You must have [completed 18 hours of continuing education](#) by the time the upcoming licensure renewal period closes, at midnight Feb. 28, 2023. You have just over eight months left to do that.

Keep in mind that of those 18 hours, one hour must relate to the Florida laws and rules of Professional Engineers from a Board-approved provider, and one hour must relate to professional ethics. Four hours must relate to area of practice. The remaining 12 hours may be related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

After each renewal period closes, just over 3 percent of PEs licensed in Florida will be audited to verify that they have completed their continuing education. (The [current CE audit](#) is underway.) Under [Rule 61G15-19.004, Florida Administrative Code](#), penalties for a first violation for failing to complete your CE courses, in addition to the costs of the investigation, can range from a Reprimand and a \$1,000 fine, to a one-year suspension, a two-year probation, and a \$5,000 fine.

PEs must [retain certificates for continuing-education courses](#) for at least two renewal periods, or four years. If you are audited, you will be required to provide those certificates as proof of completing your CE requirements. (Do not submit your CE certificates to the Board unless you are requested to do so.)



✓ *Your password*

Log into your account at the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's website, myfloridalicense.com, and confirm that your PE license is linked to your account. If it isn't, follow the instructions on [our PE License Renewal: Step-by-Step page](#).

You will need access to your account to renew your PE license, as well as to receive a printable copy of your license. If you discover that you have misplaced your password or that your account or license is associated with a different email address, contact the Board at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) for assistance.

✓ *Your contact information*

While you are logged into your account, check that your contact information is up to date.

Florida statutes require that PEs licensed in the state keep their contact information up to date with the Board. This includes your email address, mailing address, and place of practice. (See [Section 455.275\(1\), Florida Statutes](#).)

You can update your contact information in the licensure portal [by following these steps](#). Or, you can fill out [the Change Contact Information form](#) on our website.

✓ *Board emails*

If you haven't been receiving emails from FBPE, including the quarterly [Connection newsletter](#), you may have unsubscribed to all FBPE emails. That means you won't receive notifications and reminders regarding your PE license renewal. Use [our Resubscribe to FBPE Emails page](#) to ensure that you receive important information regarding your Florida PE license. (If you're uncertain, [resubscribing](#) won't hurt.)

Also, check your spam filter for FBPE emails with a return address that ends with "@fbpe.org". Emails sent by the Board will have only that domain address.

✓ *Your PE license status*

Check the status of your PE license at myfloridalicense.com.

If it is delinquent, you must pay both the renewal fee from the previous renewal period and a delinquent fee before you can renew for the 2023-25 period.

If it is null and void, you will need to have your license reinstated. Please see [the Other Forms page](#) on our website.

✓ *Renew early and save*

Watch for details on how you can save \$10 by renewing early once the renewal period begins in November. Information will be posted on [our website](#) and included in the October 2022 newsletter.

FBPE Outreach Returns in Person

Florida Board of Professional Engineers staff continued the [Board's outreach efforts](#) with more in-person presentations over the past year, as the pandemic allowed.

Out of 10 events, seven were in-person while three were virtual.

FBPE Executive Director Zana Raybon discussed the steps required for [becoming a licensed Professional Engineer](#) in Florida to around 1,300 students over the course of the 2021-22 school year.

Presentations were made in person, online, or via a hybrid combination to students at Florida A&M University, Florida State University, the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, and the University of West Florida. Most of the presentations were to classes, but two were to student organizations: FAMU's Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering Club and its student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Additionally, dozens of building officials stopped by the Board's table at the Building Officials Association of Florida's 2022 annual conference in early June in Orlando. FBPE Lead Investigator Wendy Anderson was on hand to answer questions from building officials on topics ranging from the proper [signing and sealing of engineering documents](#) to how to file [a complaint against an engineer](#).

FBPE staff will be scheduling presentations — both in-person and virtual — this fall and next spring to classes and clubs at Florida's colleges of engineering, and to engineering companies' engineer interns. If you are interested in having staff discuss PE licensure, please email the Board's public information officer, Bill Lampkin, at wlampkin@fbpe.org.

Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees

FBPE applauds everyone who passed engineering exams in the past quarter. We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers. [See the complete list online.](#)

Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline

Pursuant to Rule 61G15-37.001(11), Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation is required to post all Final Orders involving active disciplinary cases to the website until the terms of the final order are completed, or until the licensee becomes inactive, retires, relinquishes the license, or permits the license to become null and void. Included in this section are the most recent cases in which final action has been taken by the Board, a brief description of the licensee's violation and discipline as well as a link to the final order. [View actions.](#)



FBPE Executive Director Zana Raybon discusses PE licensure with students in FAMU's Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering Club.

Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar to ensure you stay up to date with the latest FBPE and FEMC events.

[Check out the calendar on our website.](#)

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