



March 28, 2025

Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 529/HB 1526

Dear Delegate Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers, we ask that you support SB 529/HB1526. While obtaining a license to practice engineering in Maryland is currently attainable without formal college education, the prevailing national standard, due to the complex nature of engineering, recognizes the need for formal education. In addition to engineering education, the national standard to practice engineering requires the passing of two (2) proficiency exams administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). These exams are commonly referred to as the "Fundamentals of Engineering" or FE exam and the "Principles and Practice of Engineering" or PE exam.

In Maryland, at this time, there are three (3) paths to obtain a license to practice engineering:

1. Be an applicant with who graduates from a college or university approved by the State Board for Professional Engineers (Board) with a 4-year degree in engineering, four (4) years of satisfactory work experience under a licensed professional engineer and have passed both of the proficiency exams: the FE exam and the PE exam.
2. Be an applicant who graduates with from a college or university not approved by the Board, with eight (8) years of work experience under a licensed professional engineer and have passed both the FE exam and PE exam.
3. Be an applicant without a college degree with twelve (12) years of experience under a licensed professional engineer and have passed only the PE exam.

It is important to note that Maryland is in the minority of states providing for a non-degreed path to becoming a licensed professional engineer. We support maintaining that non-degreed path which SB 529/HB 1526 does; however, due to the practicing engineer's responsibility for public welfare and safety, we strongly believe all applicants seeking to practice engineering should confirm their competence and ability by passing both the FE and the PE exams and we ask that you support these bills.

Sincerely,
Maryland Society of Professional Engineers

Torrence M. Pierce, PE
Legislative Committee Chair