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## Senate Bill 12

Date: January 22, 2020  
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Bill Title: Professional Engineers – Qualifications for Licensure – Experience Requirements  
Re: **Letter of Support**

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Senate Bill 12 removes the requirement that professional engineering applicants have experience in “responsible charge” and replaces it with the requirement that applicants have “progressive work experience.”

Maryland law currently allows an individual to become licensed as a professional engineer without a college degree provided that the individual has twelve (12) years of work experience, five (5) of which must be in “responsible charge.” Non-licensed applicants face significant difficulties in obtaining experience in responsible charge of a project, which severely restricts their ability to become licensed engineers.

Pursuant to Maryland law, “responsible charge” is defined as, “[having] direct control and personal supervision of engineering that requires initiative, professional skill, and independent judgement.”<sup>1</sup> This definition directly conflicts with the scope of an unlicensed applicants work, which only allows for unlicensed practice “while the employee or other subordinate works under the responsible charge of the licensee or authorized individual.”<sup>2</sup> This contradiction creates an insurmountable barrier to licensure.

Senate Bill 12 addresses this conflict of law and removes barriers to licensure by allowing engineers who follow the non-academic path to legally gain the experience they need to become licensed. Moreover, Senate Bill 12 simplifies the licensure process by removing an unattainable requirement without sacrificing public health and welfare. **For these reasons, the Department respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 12.**

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<sup>1</sup> 14-101(l)(1), Bus. Occ. and Prof. Art, Ann. Code of Md (2018)

<sup>2</sup> 14-303(b), Bus. Occ. and Prof. Art, Ann. Code of Md (2018)