

Committee: EEE

Bill Title: Board for Professional Engineers –

Members of the Board, Qualifying Years of Engineering Practice

Re: Testimony

Introduction:

Good afternoon, for the record, my name is John Dove, Commissioner of Occupational and Professional Licensing, at the Maryland Department of Labor. I would like to thank the Energy, Education and Environment Committee and Chair Feldman and all Committee Members for allowing me to introduce you to SB 297, entitled State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members - Qualifications, and I would like to explain why the passing of this Bill would benefit all citizens of Maryland.

Testimony:

The Board for Professional Engineers (PEs) seeks to amend a section of their Title Act to reduce the number of years of experience from 12 to 5 years of professional practice for applicants to be eligible for appointment to the Maryland PE Board. The Board deems that the 12-year requirement could be considered a barrier to allowing younger individuals/emerging professionals to serve on the Board. The Board also considered that this change could expand the pool of eligible candidates, encourage diversity of the Board, as well as better align with the requirements of other Professional Design Boards in Maryland.

The Board for Professional Engineers qualifies and licenses individuals seeking licensure and issues permits to business entities through which engineering is practiced. The Board regulates the practice of engineering, investigates complaints against licensees, as well as complaints related to unlicensed practice. The Board may issue a reprimand, suspend or revoke a license or permit, and /or impose a fine for violation of its regulations. Professional Engineers represent an integral aspect of the design and construction industry. Maryland Professional licensees abide by a code of ethics to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens.

The Board respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee.

Sincerely



John C. Dove, Commissioner

cc: Sarah J. McDermott, Assistant Commissioner
Zevi Thomas, Executive Director