

SB 297_MDL_Support.docx (1).pdf

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Letter of Support

SB 297 - State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members - Qualifications

This bill seeks to enhance the ability of the Board of Professional Engineers (“the Board”) to attract qualified and diverse industry professionals to serve on the Board. It does this by reducing the number of years of professional practice, from 12 to 5 years, that is required to be eligible for appointment to the Board.

The Board of 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 under the provisions of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 14, and the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 9, Subtitle 23.

Attracting and retaining committed industry professionals is a challenge for all of the occupational and professional licensing boards managed by the Department. This change would remove a barrier to young professionals in the engineering field, expand the pool of eligible candidates, and encourage further diversity of the Board.

For the above reasons, the Department respectfully requests a **favorable report** by the Committee on SB 297.

ACECMD - Testimony - SB297 - State Board for Prof

Uploaded by: Chad Faison

Position: FAV



Hon. Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Hon. Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Organization: The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD)
Bill: SB297 - State Board for Professional Engineers - Engineer Members – Qualifications
Position: Support

Chairman Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan,

The American Council of Engineering Companies/MD (ACEC/MD) is the representative organization for approximately 90 consulting engineering firms of various sizes across the state. These firms play a crucial role in serving both the public and private sectors by actively participating in the design and development of essential infrastructure such as public water and wastewater systems, bridges, highways, building structures, and environmental projects.

Our organization's member firms collectively employ approximately 7,000 individuals statewide, and approximately forty percent of ACEC/MD's membership is comprised of certified small, minority-owned, or women-owned businesses, reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion within the engineering industry. We respectfully **support** this bill.

Following discussions with the Department of Labor, we have gained an understanding that the bill's objectives include enhancing diversity on the Board and attracting younger members. ACEC/MD fully endorses these goals and is pleased to extend its support to the bill.

For any comments, inquiries, or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at cfaison@acecmd.org.

Respectfully,

Chad Faison
Executive Director
ACEC/MD

John Dove- Professional Engineers Written Testimon

Uploaded by: John Dove

Position: FAV

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