

February 18, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Maryland State Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 529

Dear Senator Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

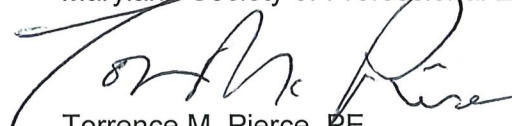
I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers. While obtaining a license to practice engineering in Maryland is currently attainable without formal college education, the prevailing national standard, due to the complex nature of engineering, recognizes the need for formal education. In addition to a bachelor's degree in engineering, 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.

It is important to note that, in Maryland, 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 also important to note that Maryland is in the minority of states providing for a non-degreed path to becoming a licensed professional engineer. Senate Bill 529 maintains that non-degreed path; 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 Senate Bill 529.

Sincerely,
Maryland Society of Professional Engineers



Torrence M. Pierce, PE
Legislative Committee Chair