

February 18, 2020

Chair Schuring, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, on behalf of a like-minded group of engineering associations we are writing as an interested party to express concerns with Senate Bill 246 as currently written.

Senate Bill 246 would establish a universal reciprocity process in Ohio thus allowing occupational licensing to out-of-state licensees for all types professions. While the goal of this bill is to assist those that move to Ohio to receive their license to practice their trade in a timely manner thus benefiting the economic growth of the state, there are those professional registrations in Ohio that currently practice reciprocity with other states successfully.

The members of our groups work with the State Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors, which has the ability to grant reciprocity within 24-48 hours of a request. The reason the Board can do this is professional engineers and surveyors have a national model law for licensing, developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and followed by a majority of states. This national standard for licensure requires minimum standards for education, experience and a national exam to become a professional licensed engineer or surveyor. Why would we lower Ohio's standards from the recognized national model law that currently exists today with the language in S.B. 246?

The consequences of lowering our standards in Ohio impacts every citizen as professional licensed engineers and surveyors design many complex facilities such as water treatment plants, nuclear power plants, high rise buildings, power grids, telecommunication facilities, roadways and bridges. These facilities should not be designed by an engineer who has not met a minimum standard for excellence.

Our associations have proposed language to continue to allow excellence in professional engineering and surveying in Ohio. The language would add Section (7) in line 284 stating: "This section does not apply to any licensed occupation in the state of Ohio that requires applicants for licensure to meet a national standard adopted by a majority of states that includes a minimum education, experience and national examination requirements." In addition, changes to lines 16802-16819 would be removed.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts about S.B. 246 and look forward to future conversations on how to best serve and protect Ohioans.

Respectfully,

American Council for Engineering Companies of Ohio (ACEC Ohio)
County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO)
National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)
Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE)
Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO)
State Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors