

1 SB388  
2 117446-2  
3 By Senator Orr  
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-10

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the State Board of  
9 Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land  
10 Surveyors is responsible for licensing and  
11 regulating the practice of professional engineers  
12 and land surveyors in the state.

13 This bill would specify an additional level  
14 of graduation and experience qualifications for  
15 licensure as a professional engineer.

16  
17 A BILL  
18 TO BE ENTITLED  
19 AN ACT

20  
21 To amend Section 34-11-4, Code of Alabama 1975,  
22 relating to the requirements for licensure for engineers and  
23 land surveyors; to provide further for the graduation and  
24 experience qualifications for licensure as a professional  
25 engineer.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1                   Section 1. Section 34-11-4 of the Code of Alabama  
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3                   "§34-11-4.

4                   "The board may approve engineering, land surveying,  
5 and related science programs which shall be accepted under the  
6 following criteria:

7                   "(1) PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. The following shall be  
8 considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that  
9 the applicant is qualified for licensure as a professional  
10 engineer:

11                   "a. Graduation and experience plus examination.

12                   "1. Graduation in an approved engineering curriculum  
13 plus four years experience. A graduate of an approved  
14 engineering curriculum of four years or more from a school or  
15 college approved by the board who has successfully passed the  
16 eight-hour written examination in the fundamental engineering  
17 subjects and who has a specific record of an additional four  
18 years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of  
19 a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be  
20 admitted to an eight-hour written examination in the  
21 principles and practice of engineering. Upon passing this  
22 examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of  
23 licensure to practice engineering in this state, provided the  
24 applicant is otherwise qualified.

25                   "2. Graduation in an unapproved engineering  
26 curriculum plus six years experience. A graduate of an  
27 unapproved engineering curriculum of four years or more who

1 has successfully passed the eight-hour written examination in  
2 the fundamental engineering subjects and who has a specific  
3 record of an additional six years or more of progressive  
4 experience in engineering work of a grade and character  
5 satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to an eight-hour  
6 written examination in the principles and practice of  
7 engineering. Upon passing this examination, the applicant  
8 shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice  
9 engineering in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise  
10 qualified.

11 "3. Graduation in an approved bachelor's engineering  
12 curriculum with a doctorate in engineering plus two years'  
13 experience. A graduate of an approved bachelor's engineering  
14 curriculum and of an engineering doctorate program and who has  
15 a specific record of four years or more of progressive  
16 experience in engineering work of a grade and character  
17 satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to an eight-hour  
18 written examination in the principles and practice of  
19 engineering. Upon passing this examination, the applicant  
20 shall be granted a certificate of licensure to practice  
21 engineering in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise  
22 qualified.

23 "b. Comity. The board may, upon application, issue a  
24 certificate of licensure as a professional engineer to any  
25 person who holds a valid professional engineering certificate  
26 issued by any jurisdiction of the United States or of any  
27 country; provided, that the education, experience, and

1 examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the  
2 judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that  
3 specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama  
4 at the time such certificate was issued. The board may  
5 authorize an applicant to practice engineering on a temporary  
6 basis upon issuance of an interim permit which shall remain in  
7 effect until the board acts upon the application. The interim  
8 permit may be issued upon submission of documentation and a  
9 fee which shall be established by the board, not to exceed  
10 fifty dollars (\$50).

11 "(2) ENGINEER INTERN. The following shall be  
12 considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that  
13 the applicant is qualified for certification as an engineer  
14 intern:

15 "a. Graduation and examination. A graduate of an  
16 approved engineering curriculum of four years or more from a  
17 school or college approved by the board who has successfully  
18 passed an eight-hour written examination in the fundamental  
19 engineering subjects shall be certified as an engineer intern,  
20 if otherwise qualified.

21 "b. Graduation and examination plus experience.  
22 Graduation in an unapproved engineering curriculum plus two  
23 years experience. A graduate of an unapproved engineering  
24 curriculum of four years or more who has successfully passed  
25 an eight-hour written examination in the fundamental  
26 engineering subjects and who has a specific record of two  
27 years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of

1 a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be  
2 certified as an engineer intern, if otherwise qualified.

3 "c. Comity. The education, experience, and  
4 examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the  
5 judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that  
6 specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama  
7 at the time such certificate was issued. Fundamentals of  
8 engineering examinations of comparable character taken and  
9 passed in another jurisdiction may be accepted by the board.

10 "(3) PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR. The following shall  
11 be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board  
12 that the applicant is qualified for licensure as a  
13 professional land surveyor.

14 "a. Graduation and experience plus examination.

15 "1. Graduation in an approved land surveying  
16 curriculum plus four years experience. A graduate of an  
17 approved land surveying curriculum of four years or more  
18 including a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours  
19 of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the  
20 board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written  
21 examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects and who  
22 has a specific record of an additional four years or more of  
23 combined office and field experience in land surveying work of  
24 a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be  
25 admitted to a six-hour written examination in the principles  
26 and practice of land surveying and a two-hour written  
27 examination on laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to

1 land surveying in Alabama. Upon passing these examinations,  
2 the applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to  
3 practice land surveying, provided the applicant is otherwise  
4 qualified.

5 "2. Graduation in an approved curriculum related to  
6 surveying plus six years experience. A graduate of a  
7 curriculum related to surveying of four years or more  
8 including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours  
9 of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the  
10 board and who has successfully passed the eight-hour written  
11 examination in the fundamental land surveying subjects and who  
12 has a specific record of an additional six years or more of  
13 progressive office and field experience in land surveying work  
14 of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be  
15 admitted to a six-hour examination in the principles and  
16 practice of land surveying and a two-hour written examination  
17 of laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land  
18 surveying in Alabama. Upon passing these examinations, the  
19 applicant shall be granted a certificate of licensure to  
20 practice land surveying in this state, provided the applicant  
21 is otherwise qualified.

22 "3. Graduation in a related science curriculum plus  
23 eight years experience. A graduate of a related science  
24 curriculum of four years or more from a school or college  
25 approved by the board who has successfully passed the  
26 eight-hour written examination in the fundamental land  
27 surveying subjects and who has a specific record of an

1 additional eight years or more of progressive combined office  
2 and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and  
3 character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to a  
4 six-hour examination in the principles and practice of land  
5 surveying and a two-hour written examination of laws,  
6 procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in  
7 Alabama. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall  
8 be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land  
9 surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise  
10 qualified.

11 "b. Experience plus examination. Before December 31,  
12 2007, an applicant who has a specific record of eight years or  
13 more of combined office and field experience in land surveying  
14 work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall  
15 be admitted to an eight-hour written examination in the  
16 fundamentals of land surveying, and after passing the  
17 fundamentals examination shall be admitted to a six-hour  
18 written examination in the principles and practice of land  
19 surveying and a two-hour written examination on laws,  
20 procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in  
21 Alabama. Upon passing these examinations, the applicant shall  
22 be granted a certificate of licensure to practice land  
23 surveying in this state, provided the applicant is otherwise  
24 qualified.

25 "c. Comity. The board may, upon application, grant  
26 to any person who holds a valid professional land surveying  
27 certificate issued by any jurisdiction of the United States or



1 of any country, admission into a two-hour written examination  
2 of laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land  
3 surveying in Alabama, provided that the education, experience,  
4 and examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the  
5 judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that  
6 specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama  
7 at the time such certificate was issued. Upon passing the  
8 examination, the applicant shall be granted a certificate of  
9 licensure to practice land surveying in this state, provided  
10 the applicant is otherwise qualified.

11 "(4) LAND SURVEYOR INTERN. The following shall be  
12 considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that  
13 the applicant is qualified for certification as a land  
14 surveyor intern:

15 "a. Graduation plus examination. Graduation in an  
16 approved land surveying curriculum. A graduate of a land  
17 surveying curriculum of four years or more including a minimum  
18 of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of surveying courses  
19 from a school or college approved by the board who has  
20 successfully passed an eight-hour written examination in the  
21 fundamentals of land surveying shall be certified as a land  
22 surveyor intern, if otherwise qualified.

23 "b. Graduation and examination plus experience.

24 "1. Graduation in an approved curriculum related to  
25 surveying plus two years experience. A graduate of a  
26 curriculum related to surveying of four years or more  
27 including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours

1 of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the  
2 board who has successfully passed an eight-hour written  
3 examination in the fundamentals of land surveying and who has  
4 a specific record of an additional two years or more of  
5 combined office and field experience in land surveying work of  
6 a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be  
7 certified as a land surveyor intern, if otherwise qualified.

8 "2. Graduation in a related science curriculum plus  
9 four years experience. A graduate of a related science  
10 curriculum of four years or more who has successfully passed  
11 an eight-hour written examination in the fundamentals of land  
12 surveying and who has a specific record of an additional four  
13 years or more of combined office and field experience in land  
14 surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the  
15 board shall be certified as a land surveyor intern, if  
16 otherwise qualified.

17 "c. Comity. The education, experience, and  
18 examination qualifications of the applicant are, in the  
19 judgment of the board, of a standard not lower than that  
20 specified in the applicable licensure act in effect in Alabama  
21 at the time such certificate was issued. The board may accept  
22 fundamentals of land surveying examinations of comparable  
23 character taken and passed in another jurisdiction.

24 "(5) CHARACTER. No person shall be eligible for  
25 licensure as a professional engineer, certification as an  
26 engineer intern, licensure as a professional land surveyor, or

1 certification as a land surveyor intern who is not of good  
2 character and reputation.

3 "(6) TEACHING CREDITS. In considering the  
4 qualifications of applicants, teaching in an engineering  
5 curriculum approved by the board may be considered as  
6 engineering experience. Teaching land surveying subjects in a  
7 land surveying curriculum approved by the board may be  
8 considered as land surveying experience.

9 "(7) GRADUATE STUDY. In counting years of experience  
10 for professional engineer licensure, the board may give  
11 credit, not in excess of one year, for successful completion  
12 of graduate study leading to a master's degree in engineering.  
13 If a Ph.D. in engineering is completed, a total of two year's  
14 experience may be credited. The two-year credit shall include  
15 one year for the master's degree. If the Ph.D. is obtained  
16 without the master's degree, the credit for experience shall  
17 be two years. In counting years of experience for professional  
18 land surveyor licensure, the board may give credit, not in  
19 excess of one year, for successful completion of graduate  
20 study leading to a master's degree in land surveying. If a  
21 Ph.D. in land surveying is completed, a total of two years'  
22 experience may be credited. The credit of two years shall  
23 include one year for the master's degree. If the Ph.D. is  
24 obtained without the master's degree, the credit for  
25 experience shall be two years.

26 "(8) NONPRACTICING APPLICANTS. Any person having the  
27 necessary qualifications prescribed in this chapter to entitle

1 the applicant to licensure shall be eligible for licensure  
2 although the applicant may not be practicing engineering or  
3 land surveying at the time of making application.

4 "(9) RECOGNITION OF PREVIOUSLY TAKEN EXAMINATIONS.

5 The board may accept fundamentals and principles and practice  
6 examinations of comparable character taken and passed in  
7 another jurisdiction."

8 Section 2. This act shall become effective  
9 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
10 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.