



**Board of Licensure for
Professional Engineers
and Surveyors**



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NEWSLETTER

Twentieth Edition

NCEES Model Law to Increase Education Requirement

At the September, 2006 annual meeting of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the member boards approved revisions to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* to increase mandatory engineering education for PE licensure by 30 additional credits. NCEES committees have been studying the concept behind the recommendation for more than five years. Now that the Council has approved the concept and approved incorporating it into the *Model Law*, NCEES will define what the additional education should be. A committee has been charged to define some of the terms and consider issues related to implementation. The increased education requirements would be implemented no sooner than 2015.

The Mississippi Board supports this increased requirement. Over the years, the hours required for a BS degree in engineering have been reduced again and again. A licensed Professional Engineer requires more education than required by today's typical BS curriculum. Other licensed professions (pharmacists, accountants, architects) have already recognized the reduced coursework of their typical BS curriculums by requiring additional credits for their professional licenses.

This revision will require a change in the Mississippi PE licensure law. The Board would welcome your comments. Please submit them in writing by letter, fax (601-359-6159) or email (information@pepls.state.ms.us). The new *Model Law* language appears on the next page.

Here is the new Model Law language:

Licensure by Examination (Effective January 1, 2015) The following individuals shall be admitted to an 8-hour written examination in the principles and practice of engineering:

- (1) An engineer intern with a bachelor's degree, with an additional 30 credits of acceptable upper-level undergraduate or graduate-level coursework from approved course providers, and with a specific record of an additional 4 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and a character which indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering.
- (2) An engineer intern with a master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs, or the equivalent, and with a specific record of an additional 3 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and a character which indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering.
- (3) An engineer intern with a doctorate in engineering acceptable to the board and with a specific record of an additional 2 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and a character which indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering.
- (4) An individual with a doctorate in engineering acceptable to the board and with a specific record of an additional 4 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and a character which indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering.

James Q. Dickerson, III, PE, PS, appointed to the Board

Governor Haley Barbour has appointed James Q. "Jimmy" Dickerson, III, PE, PS, to the Post 3 position on the Board of Licensure, representing the Northern Supreme Court District of Mississippi. His term will run to July, 2010.

Mr. Dickerson is a native of Tate County, graduating from Coldwater High School in 1970. He attended Northwest Junior College and then went on to graduate from the University of Mississippi in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He began his career in the Holly Springs Project Office of the Mississippi Department of Transportation in June, 1974, his employer for thirty-two years. He has worked in various areas of the MDOT and was appointed District Engineer on March 1, 1997.

Mr. Dickerson received his Professional Engineer license in 1979, and has been a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Mississippi Engineering Society since 1974.

Jimmy and his wife, Betty, have resided in Batesville for 26 years and are very active members of the community. They worship with the Batesville Church of Christ, where Jimmy is an elder, treasurer, and adult bible teacher. Jimmy enjoys serving in the Batesville Exchange Club, holding various offices over the years, culminating in his service as District President in 2004-2005. He also served two terms as President of the Board of Director for the Child Abuse Prevention Center of North Mississippi in Oxford, sponsored by the Exchange Clubs of Mississippi. He presently serves on the Advisory Board for Freed Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee.

Jimmy and Betty are proud parents of a daughter and son, Jennifer and J. Q, IV. They enjoy spending time on their farm where they raise cattle and hay.

Completing the Reference Form....

At some point in your career as a PE or PS, you may be asked to serve as a reference for someone applying for licensure. Applicants are required by state law to have their experience verified by licensees and to submit references from at least 3 licensees.

The Board of Licensure relies on your objective, accurate assessment of the applicant. Take a few extra minutes to double-check your records if you're uncertain about the time period you are validating. If the position was part-time, be sure to explain this. Respond promptly so that the applicant's application can be reviewed by the Board in a timely manner; there may be a deadline the applicant is trying to meet. And finally, **be sure to comply with the required security signature across the sealed envelope.**

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Shannon Tidwell, PS, appointed to a fourth term

Governor Haley Barbour recently reappointed Shannon Tidwell of Ripley, Mississippi to a fourth term. Mr. Tidwell is the Professional Surveyor Member - Post Nine, representing the Third Supreme Court District (Northern). He was originally appointed to the Board in 1994 by then Governor Kirk Fordice. He is very active in the surveying community, representing the Mississippi Board at both the state and national levels. Congratulations, Shannon !

A question we often hear regarding Continuing Professional Competency is whether an "in house" education session qualifies, such as a "Lunch and Learn" session. It does, if: the topic is technical and relates to engineering or surveying practice; it is objectively documented, such as a sign-in sheet, containing the date, location, topic, sponsor, PDH, and list of attendees, and is signed by the sponsor.

Advice to Applicants

Is there someone in your office planning to submit an application to the Board? Please share the following with them:

- Read and follow all application instructions carefully.
- Submitting an application does not *guarantee* an exam citation.
- It may take more than one Board meeting for an application to gain final approval.
- Applications that are not approved at the first meeting may be reconsidered at future meetings; application reviews are not conducted *outside* of Board meetings.
- It is to the applicant's benefit to routinely check on the status of the application; don't assume that references respond timely or that the postal service delivered your verifications.
- The Board processes over 500 exam applicants a year and at least that many comity applicants a year; the four Board staff employees can not contact individual applicants about the status of their applications.
- Once approved by the Board for examination, applicants should read and then read again all the exam instructions given to them from ELSESES, the exam proctor.

October, 2006 Exam Results

Discipline	Tested	Passed	%
Chemical	1	0	0
Civil	39	19	49
Electrical	7	4	57
Environmental	12	4	33
Industrial	1	1	100
Mechanical	7	4	57
Structural	1	1	100
FE	71	45	63
FS	18	8	44
PS	12	6	50
Miss. Section	25	20	80

Disciplinary/Legal Actions The Board office receives and processes complaints regarding engineering and surveying activities. Some investigations result in disciplinary actions while others result in administrative actions such as letters of education or closing unsubstantiated/insufficient complaints. Below is a recap of recent disciplinary actions.

Leonard C. Quick & Associates, of MS, LLC neither admitted nor denied the allegations in a complaint for practicing without a Certificate of Authority and agreed to amicably resolve the matter with payment of \$1,000. The Certificate of Authority has since been issued.

PE Wayne Peterson, PE Jason Ward, and PS Ben Rushing, Jr., agreed by consent order to a fine for practicing on an expired license. Mr. Rushing was also cited for Surveying Standards violations. The cases have been resolved and their licenses have been reinstated.

Warnock & Associates agreed by consent order to practicing without the required Certificate of Authority. The case has been resolved and the Certificate of Authority has been issued.

Dwayne Sharp, PE, PS, was disciplined for violations of the Minimum Standards of Surveying. He was fined \$500, with \$250 held in abeyance for a probationary year during which he must attend the MAPS Standards of Practice course.