



KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG
LT. GOVERNOR

JEFF PLAGGE
SUPERINTENDENT

December 16, 2020

To the Members of the Iowa General Assembly,

The Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board has proposed an amendment to Iowa Code chapter 542B dealing with the examination requirements for aspiring professional engineers. The Board's statute, in Iowa Code section 542B.14(1)(a), currently requires applicants for a license as a professional engineer to demonstrate at least four years of practical experience in engineering work and to successfully pass a proficiency examination before obtaining a license. The statute also specifies that an applicant must satisfy the practical experience requirement before that applicant is eligible to take the proficiency examination. The Board believes this restriction unnecessarily inconveniences applicants and therefore proposes to remove this eligibility restriction.

The Board has determined that applicants should be eligible to take the proficiency examination before satisfying the four-year practical experience requirement and proposes to amend the code to remove this requirement. Applicants would still have to satisfy the four-year practical experience requirement and pass the proficiency examination before obtaining a license. But applicants who are so inclined would be able to take the proficiency exam earlier and, if they pass the exam, would then be able to obtain a license immediately upon completion of the required qualifying practical experience.

The Board believes this change will continue to protect the professional standards and qualifications of licensed professional engineers and, therefore, the interests of the general public, while making the licensing process easier and more convenient for prospective engineers.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Zachary D.A. Hingst
Legal Counsel & Legislative Liaison
Iowa Division of Banking
515-242-0332