

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 1259

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of land surveyors by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1001.216, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-1) The advisory committee appointed under Subsection (a) may, on its own initiative or at the request of any interested person, prepare a written report or recommendation to the board on any surveying-related subject regulated by the board.

(a-2) The advisory committee appointed under Subsection (a) shall maintain a written public record of each subject discussed and action taken at the committee's meetings.

SECTION 2. Section 1001.601(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) On its own initiative or at the request of any interested person, the board shall prepare a written advisory opinion about:

(1) an interpretation of this chapter or Chapter 1071;

or

(2) the application of this chapter or Chapter 1071 to a person in regard to a specified existing or hypothetical factual situation.

SECTION 3. Sections 1071.253(a) and (c), Occupations Code,

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 (a) An applicant for a surveyor-in-training certificate
3 must:

4 (1) have earned a bachelor of science degree in
5 surveying from an accredited institution of higher education;

6 (2) have:

7 (A) earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited
8 institution of higher education that included at least 32 semester
9 hours in a combination of courses acceptable to the board in:

- 10 (i) land surveying [~~civil engineering~~];
11 (ii) civil engineering [~~land surveying~~];
12 (iii) mathematics;
13 (iv) photogrammetry;
14 (v) forestry;
15 (vi) land law; or
16 (vii) the physical sciences; and

17 (B) completed at least one year of experience
18 acceptable to the board in delegated responsible charge as a
19 subordinate to a registered professional land surveyor actively
20 engaged in professional surveying;

21 (3) have:

22 (A) earned an associate degree in surveying from
23 an accredited institution of higher education; and

24 (B) completed at least two years of experience
25 acceptable to the board in delegated responsible charge as a
26 subordinate to a registered professional land surveyor actively
27 engaged in professional surveying;

1 (4) have:

2 (A) successfully completed a course of
3 instruction consisting of 32 semester hours in land surveying or
4 the equivalent number of semester hours in board-approved courses
5 related to surveying; and

6 (B) completed at least two years of experience
7 acceptable to the board in delegated responsible charge as a
8 subordinate to a registered professional land surveyor actively
9 engaged in professional surveying; or

10 (5) have:

11 (A) graduated from an accredited high school;

12 (B) completed at least four years of experience
13 acceptable to the board in delegated responsible charge as a
14 subordinate to a registered professional land surveyor actively
15 engaged in professional surveying; and

16 (C) provided evidence satisfactory to the board
17 that the applicant is self-educated in professional surveying.

18 (c) On proof that an applicant meets the qualifications
19 prescribed by Subsection (a) and has passed the fundamentals of
20 surveying examination prescribed by the board under Section
21 1071.256, the [The] board shall issue a surveyor-in-training
22 certificate to the [an] applicant [~~who passes the applicable parts~~
23 ~~of the examination taken under Subsection (b)~~]. The certificate is
24 valid for eight years.

25 SECTION 4. Sections 1071.254(a) and (b), Occupations Code,
26 are amended to read as follows:

27 (a) An applicant for registration as a registered

1 professional land surveyor must:

2 (1) hold a certificate as a surveyor-in-training;

3 (2) have passed the principles and practice of
4 surveying examination prescribed by the board under Section
5 1071.256;

6 (3) [~~2~~] have at least two years of experience
7 satisfactory to the board as a surveyor-in-training in performing
8 surveying in delegated responsible charge as a subordinate to a
9 surveyor registered or licensed to engage in the practice of
10 surveying in this state or in another state having registration or
11 licensing requirements equivalent to the requirements of this
12 state; and

13 (4) [~~3~~] have earned an associate or bachelor's
14 degree from an accredited institution of higher education that
15 included at least 32 semester hours in a combination of courses
16 acceptable to the board in:

17 (A) land surveying [~~civil engineering~~];

18 (B) civil engineering [~~land surveying~~];

19 (C) mathematics;

20 (D) photogrammetry;

21 (E) forestry;

22 (F) land law; or

23 (G) the physical sciences.

24 (b) An applicant is entitled to registration as a registered
25 professional land surveyor if the applicant meets the
26 qualifications prescribed by Subsection (a) and is approved to take
27 and passes the required sections of the Texas specific surveying

1 examination prescribed under Section 1071.256.

2 SECTION 5. Section 1071.256, Occupations Code, is amended
3 by adding Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) and amending Subsection (b)
4 to read as follows:

5 (a-1) The board by rule shall prescribe the fundamentals of
6 surveying examination required for an applicant for certification
7 as a surveyor-in-training under Section 1071.253.

8 (b) The board by rule shall prescribe the principles and
9 practice of surveying examination required for an applicant for
10 registration as a registered professional land surveyor under
11 Section 1071.254 [~~must be developed and given as provided by this~~
12 ~~chapter under board rules designed~~] to determine the knowledge and
13 ability of the applicant.

14 (b-1) The board by rule shall prescribe the Texas specific
15 surveying examination required for an applicant for registration as
16 a registered professional land surveyor under Section 1071.254.

17 SECTION 6. Section 1071.253(b), Occupations Code, is
18 repealed.

19 SECTION 7. Not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas Board
20 of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors shall adopt the rules
21 necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

22 SECTION 8. Sections 1071.253 and 1071.254, Occupations
23 Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to an application for,
24 respectively, a surveyor-in-training certificate or registration
25 as a registered professional land surveyor filed with the Texas
26 Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on or after the
27 effective date of this Act. An application filed before the

1 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
2 date the application was filed, and the former law is continued in
3 effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.