

1-1 By: Nichols S.B. No. 1259
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 13, 2025;
1-3 February 28, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Business & Commerce; March 31, 2025, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10,
1-6 Nays 0; March 31, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Schwertner	X			
1-10	King			X	
1-11	Blanco	X			
1-12	Campbell	X			
1-13	Creighton	X			
1-14	Johnson	X			
1-15	Kolkhorst	X			
1-16	Menéndez	X			
1-17	Middleton	X			
1-18	Nichols	X			
1-19	Zaffirini	X			

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1259 By: Nichols

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the regulation of land surveyors by the Texas Board of
1-24 Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Section 1001.216, Occupations Code, is amended
1-27 by adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

1-28 (a-1) The advisory committee appointed under Subsection (a)
1-29 may, on its own initiative or at the request of any interested
1-30 person, prepare a written report or recommendation to the board on
1-31 any surveying-related subject regulated by the board.

1-32 (a-2) The advisory committee appointed under Subsection (a)
1-33 shall maintain a written public record of each subject discussed
1-34 and action taken at the committee's meetings.

1-35 SECTION 2. Section 1001.601(a), Occupations Code, is
1-36 amended to read as follows:

1-37 (a) On its own initiative or at the request of any
1-38 interested person, the board shall prepare a written advisory
1-39 opinion about:

1-40 (1) an interpretation of this chapter or Chapter 1071;
1-41 or

1-42 (2) the application of this chapter or Chapter 1071 to
1-43 a person in regard to a specified existing or hypothetical factual
1-44 situation.

1-45 SECTION 3. Sections 1071.253(a) and (c), Occupations Code,
1-46 are amended to read as follows:

1-47 (a) An applicant for a surveyor-in-training certificate
1-48 must:

1-49 (1) have earned a bachelor of science degree in
1-50 surveying from an accredited institution of higher education;

1-51 (2) have:

1-52 (A) earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited
1-53 institution of higher education that included at least 32 semester
1-54 hours in a combination of courses acceptable to the board in:

1-55 (i) land surveying [~~civil engineering~~];

1-56 (ii) civil engineering [~~land surveying~~];

1-57 (iii) mathematics;

1-58 (iv) photogrammetry;

1-59 (v) forestry;

1-60 (vi) land law; or

(vii) the physical sciences; and
 (B) completed at least one year of experience acceptable to the board in delegated responsible charge as a subordinate to a registered professional land surveyor actively engaged in professional surveying;

(3) have:

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

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

(4) have:

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

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

(5) have:

(A) graduated from an accredited high school;

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

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

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

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

(a) An applicant for registration as a registered professional land surveyor must:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) mathematics;

(D) photogrammetry;

(E) forestry;

(F) land law; or

(G) the physical sciences.

(b) An applicant is entitled to registration as a registered professional land surveyor if the applicant meets the qualifications prescribed by Subsection (a) and is approved to take and passes the required sections of the Texas specific surveying examination prescribed under Section 1071.256.

SECTION 5. Section 1071.256, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) and amending Subsection (b)

to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

SECTION 7. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors shall adopt the rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by this Act.

SECTION 8. Sections 1071.253 and 1071.254, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to an application for, respectively, a surveyor-in-training certificate or registration as a registered professional land surveyor filed with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors on or after the effective date of this Act. An application filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

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