



## Louisiana Rules, Laws and Ethics for Engineers and Land Surveyors

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**LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES**  
**TITLE 37. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**CHAPTER 8. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND**  
**PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING**

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purpose of providing information.

The Engineering Law, (Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:681-704) contain the official text of the Registration Law for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. For a fee, payable in advance, copies may be obtained from the Publications Section, Department of State, PO Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125, (225) 342-2083.

## **Louisiana Revised Statutes**

### **CHAPTER 8. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING**

#### **37:681. General provisions**

In order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, any individual in either public or private capacity, or foreign or domestic firm, practicing or offering to practice professional engineering or professional land surveying, shall be required to submit evidence that he is qualified to so practice and shall be licensed as hereinafter provided. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice or to offer to practice in this state engineering or land surveying, as defined in this Chapter, or to use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, unless such person has been duly licensed under the provisions of this Chapter.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

#### **37:682. Definitions**

The following words and phrases when used in this Chapter shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Applicant" shall mean any person seeking to practice engineering or land surveying in the state of Louisiana, that has applied to the board for authority to practice the respective profession and render such engineering or land surveying services in the state of Louisiana, or an individual who has applied to the board for certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern.

(2) "Board" shall mean the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, provided for by this Chapter.

(3) "Certification", "certified", or "certificate holder" shall mean the recognition granted by the board and its issuance of a certificate to any individual seeking such recognition as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern, who has been successfully examined and is otherwise in good standing with the board.

(4) "Engineer" or "professional engineer" shall mean an individual who, by reason of his special knowledge and ability to apply the mathematical, physical, and engineering sciences and the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design, acquired by

an engineering education and engineering experience, is qualified to practice engineering, as evidenced by his licensure as such by the board.

(5) "Engineer intern" shall mean an individual who has complied with the requirements for education, experience, and character and has passed an examination in the fundamental engineering subjects, as provided in this Chapter, and has been issued a certificate by the board.

(6) "Firm" shall mean any domestic or foreign firm, partnership, association, cooperative, venture, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other entity.

(7) "Land surveyor" or "professional land surveyor" shall mean an individual who is qualified to practice land surveying, as evidenced by his licensure as such by the board.

(8) "Land surveyor intern" shall mean an individual who has complied with the requirements for education, experience, and character and has passed an examination in the fundamental surveying subjects, as provided in this Chapter, and has been issued a certificate by the board.

(9) "Licensee" shall mean any person practicing or seeking to practice engineering or land surveying in the state of Louisiana that has received a license from the board and is otherwise in good standing with the board. The term is often used synonymously with the term "registrant".

(10) "Licensed" or "licensure" shall mean the recognition granted by the board and its issuance of a license to any person to practice engineering or land surveying in the state of Louisiana. These terms are often used synonymously with the terms "registered" or "registration".

(11) "Person" shall mean any individual or firm.

(12)(a) "Practice of engineering" shall mean responsible professional service which may include consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, designing, or inspection of construction in connection with any public or private utilities, structures, machines, equipment, processes, works, or projects wherein the public welfare or the safeguarding of life, health, and property is concerned or involved, when such professional service requires the application of engineering principles and the interpretation of engineering data.

(b) A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice engineering: who practices in any discipline of the profession of engineering; or who, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a professional engineer; or who represents himself as able to perform; or who does perform any engineering service or work or any other professional service designated by the practitioner or recognized by educational authorities as engineering. The practice of engineering shall not include the work ordinarily performed by a person who himself operates or maintains machinery or equipment.

(13)(a) "Practice of land surveying" shall include the measuring of areas, land surfaces, streams, bodies of water, and swamps for correct determination and description, for the establishment, reestablishment, ascertainment, or description of land boundaries,

corners, divisions, distances, and directions, the plotting and monumenting of lands and subdivisions thereof, and mapping and topographical work.

(b) A person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice land surveying who engages in land surveying and who by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a land surveyor, or who represents himself as able to perform or who does perform any land surveying service or work, or any other service designated by the practitioner which is recognized as land surveying.

(14) "Responsible charge" shall mean the direct control and personal supervision of engineering or land surveying service or work, as the case may be.

(15) "Responsible professional services" shall mean the technical responsibility, control, and direction of the investigation, design, or construction of engineering service or work requiring initiative, engineering ability, and its use of independent judgment.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:683. Board; appointments; terms**

A. (1) The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board is hereby created whose duty it shall be to administer the provisions of this Chapter. The board shall consist of eleven members, nine of whom shall be licensed professional engineers, and two of whom shall be licensed professional land surveyors.

(2) At least two members of the board shall be licensed professional engineers who are active in the private practice of engineering. For the purposes of this Section, an engineer engaged in private practice is a person legally qualified in the profession of engineering who practices engineering as a principal business and who provides analytical, creative design, and design implementation capabilities devoid of judgment-biasing commercial or product affiliations to clients on a fee basis. At least two of the members of the board shall be licensed professional engineers in government employment, at least two of the members of the board shall be licensed professional engineers employed in the field of industry, at least two of the members shall be licensed professional engineers employed in the field of education, and one member shall be a licensed professional engineer employed in the field of construction. Two members of the board shall be licensed professional land surveyors who are actively engaged in the field of surveying.

B.(1) The governor shall appoint members to the board from among licensed professional engineering nominees recommended by the Louisiana Engineering Society or its duly recognized successor, and from licensed professional land surveyor nominees recommended by the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors or its duly recognized successor. All such nominees shall have the qualifications required by R.S. 37:684.

(2) At least five nominations shall be made for each appointment required, which appointment shall be made by the governor in the same manner as the predecessor appointees were selected.

(3) All appointments to the board shall be for neither terms of not less than five nor more than six years. All appointments shall be for such periods of time as to ensure that the terms of not more than two board members end per year, and shall expire on March thirty-first of the expiration year, regardless of the date on which the successor was appointed and qualified.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Paragraph to the contrary, the terms of any board members appointed before March 31, 2006, shall expire on March thirty-first of the calendar year following their original expiration year.

(4) In the event of the death or resignation of any member of the board, the appointment by the governor of his successor shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term. No member who has served a full term shall be eligible for reappointment. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

C. Each member of the board shall receive a certificate of appointment from the governor, and before beginning his term of office, shall file with the secretary of state his written oath or affirmation for faithful discharge of his official duty. Each member shall serve until his successor has been appointed and qualified. It shall be the duty of the president of the Louisiana Engineering Society, in the case of licensed professional engineers, or the president of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors, in the case of the licensed professional land surveyors, duly authorized and acting on behalf of the respective society to make the nominations described above within sixty days after receipt of notice of the death, resignation, or removal of a member of the board, and at least thirty days prior to the expiration of the term of a member of the board.

D. This board shall be financially self-sufficient. It shall receive no state funds through appropriation or otherwise and shall not expend any such state funds. No state funds shall be expended or committed to expenditure for the group benefits program or any other health insurance or employee benefit program, for any retirement system, for any salary, per diem payment, travel or expenses, office supplies and materials, rent, purchase of any product or service, or for any other purpose.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1987, No. 694, §1; Acts 1989, No. 149, §1; Acts 1991, No. 435, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2006, No. 473, §1.

{[NOTE: SEE ACTS 1987, NO. 694, §2.]}

### **37:684. Qualification of board members**

Each member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state, and shall have been engaged in the practice or teaching of engineering or, in the case of the professional land surveyor members, the practice or teaching of land surveying, for at least twelve years, and shall have been in responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying work, as the case may be, for at least five years. Responsible charge of engineering or land surveying teaching may be construed as responsible charge of important engineering or land surveying work.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1.

### **37:685. Compensation and expenses**

Each member of the board shall receive the amount set by the board, but not to exceed one hundred dollars per diem when actually attending to the work of the board or any of its committees, and for the time spent in necessary travel; and, in addition thereto, shall be reimbursed for all actual traveling, incidental and clerical expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Chapter.



Acts 1980, No. 568, §1.

### **37:686. Removal of members for cause**

The governor may remove any member of the board for misconduct, incompetency, or neglect of duty. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the governor, as provided in R.S. 37:683.

Before the governor can remove a member for cause, he must serve the member with a written statement of charges against him and afford him an opportunity to be heard publicly on such charges. If the member thus served does not request a public hearing within ten days after service, the governor may proceed with his removal. If the member does request such a public hearing, it shall be heard by a special committee composed of three persons, namely: an engineer appointed by the president of the Louisiana Engineering Society or, in the case of land surveyor members, a land surveyor appointed by the president of the Louisiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors, to serve as chairman; and two deans from Louisiana colleges of engineering that have Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology approved curricula to be chosen by the board.

The recommendation of this committee shall be binding upon the governor. A copy of the charges, a transcript of the record of the hearing, and a copy of the recommendation shall be filed with the secretary of state.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1.

### **37:687. Organization and meetings**

A. The board shall hold at least four regular meetings each year. Special meetings shall be held at such time and place as specified by a call of the chairman or secretary. Notice of all meetings shall be given in writing to each member by the secretary. The board shall elect annually from its membership the following officers: a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. A quorum of the board shall be a majority of its members. The board may appoint or employ an assistant secretary, executive secretary, treasurer, or other officers or employees not members of the board, to whom clerical and administrative duties may be assigned. The board shall fix the compensation of such persons not under the state civil service.

B. The board shall be domiciled and maintain its principal office in the city of Baton Rouge and shall maintain its records at said principal office, and shall hold its regular meetings there, unless, in the discretion of the chairman, it is necessary or convenient to meet elsewhere. A change in domicile of the board may be made by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire board at a regular meeting.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1991, No. 472, §1; Acts 1995, No. 666, §3; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1.

### **37:688. Powers of the board**

A. The board shall have the power to make, adopt, amend, and promulgate all bylaws, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this state, which may be reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties, and the regulation of the proceedings before it. The board shall adopt and have an official seal, which shall be affixed to all licenses and certificates issued.

B.(1) Each member of the board shall have power to administer oaths, and the board shall have power to subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books and papers pertinent to any investigation, hearing, or disciplinary or enforcement proceeding authorized by this Chapter, and any employee of the board engaged in such investigation, hearing, or disciplinary or enforcement proceeding shall have the power to administer oaths to and take the depositions of persons pertaining to any investigation, hearing, or disciplinary or enforcement proceeding.

(2) The board may require any law enforcement officer or any state agency, the sheriffs of the various parishes, or constables, marshals, or other law enforcement officers of any parish or municipality to serve such subpoenas and other process of said board.

Whenever parish, municipal, or other local officers are required to serve such subpoenas or other process of the board, they shall be paid the same fees by the board as are provided by laws for similar services under processes issued by district courts.

(3)(a) Any person who shall fail to appear in response to a subpoena or to answer any question or produce any books or papers pertinent to any such investigations, hearings, or disciplinary or enforcement proceedings or who shall knowingly give false testimony therein shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the actions, sanctions, and penalties provided by R.S. 37:698 and 700.

(b) In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, any district court of the state of Louisiana within the jurisdiction of which the inquiry is carried on, or within the jurisdiction of which said person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found, or resides, or transacts business upon application by the board, shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the board, its member, or agent, and to produce evidence, if so ordered, or there to give testimony touching on the matter under consideration or in question; and any failure to obey such order of court may be punished by said court as a contempt thereof.

C. (1) The board shall adopt, promulgate, and enforces rules and regulations, which may be reasonably necessary for the protection of the public and proper administration of this Chapter. These rules and regulations shall be binding upon all applicants, engineer interns, land surveyor interns, professional engineers and professional land surveyors, including all firms which must hold a license. These rules and regulations shall be made known, in writing, to every applicant, licensee, and certificate holder under this Chapter. The board may revise and amend these rules and regulations from time to time, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, and shall notify each licensee and certificate holder in writing or by notice in the official journal of the board of such revision or amendment.

(2) The board may establish, adopt, promulgate, and publish rules and regulations concerning the procurement of professional engineering and land surveying services.



D. The board is hereby authorized in its own name to apply for relief by injunction in the established manner provided in cases of civil procedure to enforce the provisions of this Chapter, or to restrain any violation thereof. In such proceedings, it shall be unnecessary to allege or prove that either an adequate remedy at law does not exist or that substantial or irreparable damage would result from the continued violation thereof.

E. The board may subject an applicant to such examinations as it deems necessary to determine his qualifications. In the event a question arises as to the competence of a licensee or certificate holder in a specific technical field which cannot be otherwise resolved to the board's satisfaction, the board, either upon request of the licensee or certificate holder or on its own volition, may submit the licensee or certificate holder to appropriate examinations.

F. The board, by rule or regulation, may create license or renewal statuses for licensees and former licensees. The board may establish classifications of licensure including but not limited to active, expired, inactive, and retired classifications.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1989, No. 149, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1999, No. 329, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:689. Firms**

A. All domestic firms and foreign firms qualifying to do business in the state of Louisiana, which practice or offer to practice engineering or land surveying, or both in the state of Louisiana are subject to regulation and supervision by the board, and the board, in implementation of this Section, may issue rules and regulations further governing the conduct and activities of such firm.

B. Within thirty days after the issuance by the secretary of state of a certificate of incorporation of a Louisiana corporation formed pursuant to the Louisiana Business Corporation Law, the Louisiana Nonprofit Corporation Law, or the Louisiana Architectural-Engineering Corporation Law, or the issuance by the secretary of state of a certificate of organization of a Louisiana limited liability company formed pursuant to the Louisiana Limited Liability Company Law, or the qualification of a foreign corporation or foreign limited liability company in the state of Louisiana which practices or offers to practice engineering or land surveying, or both, in the state of Louisiana, said firm shall file an application for licensure with the board on a form provided by the board.

C. Within sixty days after the firm files with the board the application required above, the board, in the event the firm is otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules and regulations issued by the board governing firms, shall issue a license. Any firm having been so licensed by the board shall have the authority to contract to deliver such engineering, land surveying, or engineering and land surveying services, and therefore shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided in this Chapter.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:690. Receipts and disbursements**

A. The treasurer or the executive secretary of the board, or any other person or persons authorized by the board, shall receive, disburse, and account for all monies paid to or received by the board. He shall institute a system of books and financial records satisfactory to the supervisor of public accounts, who shall audit them annually. He shall open an account in a bank designated by the board as its official depository in the city wherein the board is domiciled. All checks disbursing funds of the board must be signed by any two of the following persons: the executive secretary, the deputy executive secretary, the treasurer, or any member of the board as directed by the board. All disbursements of funds shall be approved by the board. All funds of the board shall be deposited within seventy-two hours after receipt.

B. The board may employ such investigators, clerical, or other assistants as are necessary for the proper performance of its work, and may make expenditures from its funds for any purpose which, in the opinion of the board, is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties under this Chapter, including the expenses of the board's delegates to conventions and meetings of, and membership dues to, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. The board may, if it deems necessary, or upon advice of the attorney general, hire counsel and investigators and pay traveling expenses thereof for the investigation and prosecution of any disciplinary or enforcement proceeding under this Chapter.

C. The board may, at its discretion, pay any witness subpoenaed to appear before the board an amount set by the board, but not to exceed one hundred dollars per diem, when actually in attendance, including time spent in traveling, not to exceed one day to and one day from the location of the board meeting, and in addition, the board may reimburse any witness for actual traveling expenses when furnished with proof of such expenses, including hotel when a witness resides in a parish other than the one in which the board is meeting.

D. Under no circumstances shall the total amount of warrants issued by the board in payment of the expenses and compensation provided for in this Chapter exceed the amount of the income, funds, and fees collected by the board.

E. All funds derived from fines as provided by R.S. 37:698 and 700 shall be deposited in the state general fund.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1985, No. 580, §1; Acts 1997, No. 1096, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:691. Records and reports**

A. (1) The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and a file of all applications, which file shall show:

- (a) The name, age, and residence of each applicant.
- (b) The date of the application.
- (c) The place of business of such applicant.
- (d) Educational and other qualifications of the applicant.
- (e) Whether or not an examination was required.

- (f) Whether the applicant was rejected.
- (g) Whether a license or certification was granted.
- (h) The date of the action of the board.
- (i) Such other information which may be deemed necessary by the board.

(2) The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board set forth therein, and a transcript thereof, duly certified by the secretary of the board, under seal, shall be admissible in evidence with the same force and effect as if the original were produced.

B. All records maintained by the board in connection with disciplinary and enforcement proceedings and actions or its administration of examinations, including examinations, answer sheets, solutions, and grade sheets, together with all the background information involving personnel and employer references shall be deemed confidential and as such, exempt from the provisions of Chapter 1, Title 44 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950; however, any applicant shall have the right to examine other documents relating and pertaining to any action taken by the board with regard to such applicant, but only to the extent that those documents are in the actual possession of the board. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board, at its discretion, may publish and disclose any documents and information relating and pertaining to disciplinary and enforcement proceedings and actions once the board has rendered a final decision or order.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:692. Roster**

A roster showing the names and addresses of all professional engineers and the engineering discipline under which each professional engineer has been listed, the names and addresses of all professional land surveyors, and the names and addresses of all engineer interns and land surveyor interns may be published at the discretion of the board. A roster for firms may be published at the discretion of the board.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:693. Requirements for licensure as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor, and certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern**

A. (1) The board shall license or certify, as the case may be, each applicant as an engineer intern, a land surveyor intern, a professional engineer, or a professional land surveyor, as specified herein, as requested by the applicant when, in the opinion of the board, the applicant has met the requirements of this Chapter and is proficient and qualified to practice as such.

(2) Professional engineers will be issued licenses by the board as a professional engineer. The board shall list a professional engineer in one or more of the disciplines of engineering approved by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying to signify the area in which the engineer has demonstrated competence pursuant to education, experience, and examination. The professional engineer may use a stamp that designates the discipline of

engineering in which the board has listed the engineer or a stamp that identifies the licensee as a professional engineer.

B. The minimum requirements for licensure or certification by the board shall be as follows:

(1) An engineer intern shall be either:

(a) A graduate of an accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the written or electronic examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(b) A graduate of a no accredited engineering or related science or technology curriculum of four years or more, approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, who has obtained a graduate degree from a university having an accredited undergraduate engineering curriculum in the same discipline or sub-discipline, approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the written or electronic examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(c) A graduate of a no accredited engineering curriculum of four years or more approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, who has met the requirements for progressive engineering experience in work acceptable to the board, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the written or electronic examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(2) A professional engineer shall be either:

(a) An engineer intern, or an individual who meets the qualifications to be an engineer intern, who has met the requirements for progressive engineering experience in work acceptable to the board, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the written or electronic examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(b) An individual who holds a valid license to engage in the practice of engineering issued to him by proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, based on requirements that do not conflict with the provisions of this Chapter and which were of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure laws in effect in Louisiana at the time such license was issued, who is of good character and reputation, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694, and if the state, territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, in which he is licensed will accept the license issued by the board on a reciprocal basis.

(3) A land surveyor intern shall be either:

(a) A graduate holding a baccalaureate degree from a curriculum of four years or more who has completed at least thirty semester credit hours, or the equivalent approved by the board, in courses involving land surveying, mapping, and real property approved by the board, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the oral and written examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(b) An individual certified by the board as a land surveyor in training or a land surveyor intern on or before January 1, 1995.

(4) A professional land surveyor shall be either:

(a) A land surveyor intern or an individual who meets the qualifications of a land surveyor intern who has had at least four years or more combined office and field experience in land surveying, including two years or more experience in responsible charge of land surveying

projects under the supervision of a professional land surveyor, who is of good character and reputation, who has passed the oral and written examinations required by the board, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694.

(b) An individual who holds a valid license to engage in the practice of land surveying issued to him by the proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, based on requirements that do not conflict with the provisions of this Chapter and which were of a standard not lower than that specified in the applicable licensure laws in effect in Louisiana at the time such license was issued, who has passed a written examination on the laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in Louisiana, who is of good character and reputation, and who has satisfied the requirements of R.S. 37:694, and if the state, territory, or possession, or the District of Columbia, in which he is licensed will accept the licenses issued by the board on a reciprocal basis.

C. No individual shall be eligible for renewal of licensure as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor, nor renewal of certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern who is not, in the opinion of the board, of good character and reputation.

D. The execution, as a contractor, of work designed by a professional engineer or the supervision of the construction of such work as a foreman or superintendent shall not be deemed to be a violation of R.S. 37:698 or R.S. 37:700. However, such work may be considered toward qualification required for licensure as a professional engineer under this Chapter.

E. Any individual having the necessary qualifications prescribed in this Chapter entitling him to licensure or certification shall be eligible for such licensure or certification although he may not be practicing his profession at the time of making his application.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1987, No. 385, §1; Acts 1993, No. 53, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1997, No. 1096, §1; Acts 1999, No. 329, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 1999, No. 397, §1; Acts 2001, No. 495, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5; Acts 2006, No. 473, §1.

### **37:694. Application for licensure or certification; fees**

A. (1) Application for licensure as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the board, shall show the applicant's education and a detailed summary of his technical work, and shall contain such references prescribed by the board.

(2) Application for certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the board, shall show the applicant's education and a detailed summary of his technical work, if any, and shall contain such references prescribed by the board.

(3) Application for licensure by a firm shall be in accordance with R.S. 37:689 and rules and regulations of the board.

(4) All applications shall include a statement affirming that the information contained on the application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief. Electronic signatures are acceptable, if properly encrypted.

B.(1) The application fee for professional engineers, professional land surveyors, engineer interns, land surveyor interns, and firms shall be established at the discretion of the board, but shall not exceed two hundred dollars, and said fee shall accompany the

application. The board may not increase the application fee by more than thirty dollars in any three-year period.

(2) If the board denies the issuance of a license or certificate to any applicant, the application fee shall be retained by the board. An unsuccessful applicant shall pay the prescribed fee for each subsequent application.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1. Amended by Acts 1982, No. 461, §1; Acts 1993, No. 47, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1997, No. 1096, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:695. Examinations**

A. When oral or written examinations are required, they shall be at such time and place as the board shall determine. The board shall issue to each such examinee a letter notifying him that he has passed or failed the examination.

B. The scope and administration of the examinations shall be prescribed by the board.

C. The board may assess the administrative costs as well as the actual costs of the examination to the examinee.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1991, No. 471, §1; Acts 1999, No. 329, §1.

### **37:696. Certificates and licenses; seals and stamps**

A. The board shall issue a license or certificate, as appropriate, containing such information and in the format as the board shall specify, in its discretion, to each engineer, land surveyor, engineer intern, land surveyor intern, and firm.

B. The board shall adopt rules and regulations providing for and governing the use of seals and stamps.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:697. Expiration and renewals**

A. Licensure and certification shall expire at a time specified by the board and shall become invalid after that date unless renewed. It shall be the duty of the executive secretary of the board to notify by letter to his last known address each licensee and certificate holder of the date of the expiration of the license or certificate and the amount of the fee that shall be required for its renewal. The notice shall be mailed at least one month in advance of the expiration of such license or certificate. Renewal of licensure as a professional engineer, professional land surveyor, or firm, or certification as an



engineer intern or land surveyor intern may be effected at any time during the two months prior to expiration by the payment of a fee not to exceed one hundred dollars per year, at the discretion of the board.

B. Any person who renews his license or certificate within one hundred twenty days of the expiration of such license or certificate shall not be deprived of the right of renewal.

C. The maximum fee for late renewal shall be established by the board, provided that said renewal fee shall not exceed three times the normal renewal fee. The board shall not increase the biennial renewal fee by more than twenty dollars in any one-year period.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1. Amended by Acts 1982, No. 461, §1; Acts 1993, No. 47, §1; Acts 1997, No. 361, §1; Acts 1999, No. 329, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:697.1. Continuing professional development for professional engineers and land surveyors**

Professional engineers and professional land surveyors may, by rule of the board, be required to earn annually up to fifteen hours of board-approved continuing professional development.

Acts 1997, No. 365, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:698. Disciplinary proceedings against licensees and certificate holders; procedure**

A. The board shall have the power to take disciplinary action against any licensee or certificate holder found by the board to be guilty of any of the following acts or offenses:

(1) Any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury or the giving of any false or forged evidence in applying for a license or certificate, or in taking any examination, or in applying for any renewal license or certificate provided for in this Chapter.

(2) Any fraud, deceit, gross negligence, material misrepresentation, gross incompetence, or gross misconduct in the practice of engineering or land surveying.

(3) Conviction of a felony or of any crime of moral turpitude or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony charge or to a crime of moral turpitude under the laws of the United States or any state, territory, or district of the United States.

(4) Conviction of any crime or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge an element of which is fraud or which arises out of such person's practice of engineering or land surveying.

(5) Conviction of any civil or criminal violation of, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge under the Louisiana Campaign Finance Disclosure Act or any other campaign finance and/or practices laws of the state of Louisiana, the United States, or any state, territory, or district of the United States.

(6) Violation of any provision of this Chapter or any rules or regulations adopted and promulgated by the board.

(7) The refusal of the licensing authority of another state, territory, or district of the United States to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice engineering or land surveying, or the revocation or suspension or other restriction imposed on a license, permit, or

certificate issued by such licensing authority, on grounds other than nonpayment of a licensure fee, or a finding by such licensing authority that a person has engaged in the unlicensed practice of engineering or land surveying, provided that the reason for the action taken by the other licensing authority was recognized by the Louisiana board as a ground for disciplinary action at the time the action was taken.

(8) Providing false testimony before the board.

(9) Using a seal or stamp or engaging in any other act constituting the practice of engineering or land surveying, or violating any order or terms of probation imposed by the board, at a time when his license or certificate is suspended or revoked, or at a time when his license or certificate has been expired for more than ninety days, or at a time when he is in retired or inactive status as a board licensee.

(10) Failure to provide, within thirty calendar days of receipt of notice by certified mail, information requested by the board relating to charges preferred by the board alleging a violation of this Chapter.

(11) The use of any advertising or solicitation which is false or misleading.

(12) Aiding or assisting another person in violating any provision of this Chapter or any rule or regulation adopted and promulgated by the board.

(13) Knowingly making or signing false statements, certificates, or affidavits in connection with the practice of engineering or land surveying.

(14) Declaration of insanity or incompetence by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(15) Presenting or attempting to use as one's own the license, certificate, seal, or stamp of another person.

(16) Using or attempting to use an expired, inactive, retired, or revoked license or certificate.

(17) Falsely impersonating any other licensee or certificate holder of like or different name.

(18) Practicing or offering to practice engineering or land surveying when not qualified.

(19) Violation of or noncompliance with any order, ruling, or decision of the board.

B. For purposes of this Chapter, the term "disciplinary action" shall include but not be limited to reprimand, probation, suspension, revocation of license or certificate, refusal to renew license or certificate, or fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation.

C. The board shall have the power to take disciplinary action against a firm if one or more of its officers, directors, managers, employees, agents, or representatives are found by the board to be guilty of any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section.

D. Charges may be preferred against any licensee or certificate holder in the following manner:

(1) The board, on its own initiative and by a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in a proceeding, may prefer charges against any licensee or certificate holder who commits or engages in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section.

(2) The board, on receipt of a complaint from any person and by majority vote of the board's entire membership authorized to participate in a proceeding, may prefer charges against any licensee or certificate holder who commits or engages in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section. Such complaint shall be in writing, shall be sworn to by the person or persons making the complaint, and shall be filed with the board.

E. Within twenty days of the board's preferral of charges, the board shall mail a copy of said charges to the last known address of the licensee or certificate holder so charged.

F. In the event the board determines after investigation that charges so preferred are completely unfounded, more appropriately resolved outside the formal disciplinary proceedings, or not within the jurisdiction of the board, the board shall so advise the charged party, in writing, of its determination. Otherwise, all charges shall be heard by the board or a hearing committee designated by the board within twelve months after the date on which they shall have been preferred. This twelve-month period may be extended with the consent of both the board and the charged party.

G. The date, time, and place for said hearing shall be fixed by the board or the hearing committee and a copy of the charges, together with a notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed to the last known address of the charged party, at least thirty days before the date fixed for hearing. At any hearing, the charged party shall have the right to appear in person, or by counsel, or both, to cross-examine witnesses in his defense, and to produce evidence, and witnesses in his defense. If the charged party fails or refuses to appear at the hearing, the board or the hearing committee may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.

H. If, after such hearing, a majority of the entire board membership authorized to participate in the proceeding vote in favor of sustaining the charges; the board may take disciplinary action against the charged party. Any charges found by the board after a hearing to be unfounded shall be published in the official journal of the board, if requested in writing by the charged party.

I. A charged party aggrieved by any disciplinary action taken by the board may appeal there from, pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

J. In addition to any other action, the board may assess all reasonable costs incurred in connection with a disciplinary proceeding, including investigators', stenographers', and attorneys' fees in conjunction with any other disciplinary action taken. The assessment of costs may be considered disciplinary action.

K. All disciplinary actions taken shall be published in the official journal of the board and may be released to other professional organizations relating to professional engineering and land surveying or to the news media.

L. The board may make informal disposition by consent order, agreement, settlement, or default of any disciplinary proceeding pending before it. Each such informal disposition shall have no force or effect unless ratified by the board at its next regular meeting. Consent orders may be considered disciplinary actions.

M. The board may establish a complaint review committee to investigate, mediate, or initiate disciplinary or legal proceedings on behalf of the board with respect to charges preferred or information received by the board alleging that a licensee or certificate holder committed or engaged in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section. The complaint review committee shall consist of at least one member of the board.

N. The board, for reasons it may deem sufficient, may reissue or reinstate a license or certificate to any person whose license or certificate has been revoked, if a majority of the entire board membership authorized to participate in the proceeding vote in favor of such reissuance or reinstatement.

O. Repealed by Acts 2004, No. 442, §2.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1985, No. 580, §1; Acts 1987, No. 694, §1; Acts 1989, No. 149, §1; Acts 1993, No. 53, §1; Acts 1999, No. 329, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §§1, 2; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5; Acts 2004, No. 442, §§1, 2.

NOTE: See Acts 1987, No. 694, §2.

**37:699. Repealed by Acts 2003, No. 279, '9.**

**37:700. Enforcement proceedings against other persons; procedure**

A. The board shall have the power to take enforcement action against any non-licensee or non-certificate holder found by the board to be guilty of any of the following acts or offenses:

(1) Practicing or offering to practice engineering or land surveying in the state of Louisiana without being licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(2) Presenting or attempting to use as one's own the license, certificate, seal, or stamp of another person.

(3) Any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury or the giving of any false or forged evidence in applying for a license or certificate, or in taking any examination.

(4) Falsely impersonating any licensee or certificate holder of like or different name.

(5) Using or attempting to use an expired, inactive, retired, or revoked license or certificate.

(6) Using or attempting to use a seal or stamp which is deceptively similar to the seals or stamps authorized by the board for use by its licensees.

(7) The use by any person of the words "engineer" or "engineering" or "land surveyor" or "land surveying" or any modification or derivative thereof in its name or form of business or activity except as licensed under this Chapter or in the pursuit of activities exempted by this Chapter.

(8) Falsely claiming that a person is licensed under this Chapter.

(9) Violation of any provisions of this Chapter or any rules or regulations adopted and promulgated by the board.

(10) Violation of or noncompliance with any order, ruling, or decision of the board.

B. For purposes of this Chapter, the term "enforcement action" shall include but not be limited to a fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation.

C. The board shall have the power to take enforcement action against a firm if one or more of its officers, directors, managers, employees, agents, or representatives are found by the board to be guilty of any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section.

D. Charges may be preferred against any non-licensee or non-certificate holder in the following manner:

(1) The board, on its own initiative and by a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in a proceeding, may prefer charges against any non-licensee or non-certificate holder who commits or engages in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section.

(2) The board, on receipt of a complaint from any person and by majority vote of the board's entire membership authorized to participate in a proceeding, may prefer charges against any non-licensee or non-certificate holder who commits or engages in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section. Such complaint shall be in writing, shall be sworn to by the person or persons making the complaint, and shall be filed with the board.

E. Within twenty days of the board's preferral of charges, the board shall mail a copy of said charges to the last known address of the non-licensee or non-certificate holder so charged.

F. In the event the board determines after investigation that the charges so preferred are completely unfounded, more appropriately resolved outside the formal enforcement proceedings, or not within the jurisdiction of the board, the board shall so advise the charged party, in writing, of its determination. Otherwise, all charges shall be heard by the board or a hearing committee designated by the board within twelve months after the date on which they shall have been preferred. This twelve-month period may be extended with the consent of both the board and the charged party.

G. The date, time, and place for said hearing shall be fixed by the board or the hearing committee and a copy of the charges, together with a notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing, shall be personally served on or mailed to the last known address of the charged party, at least thirty days before the date fixed for hearing. At any hearing, the charged party shall have the right to appear in person, or by counsel, or both, to cross-examine witnesses in his defense, and to produce evidence and witnesses in his defense. If the charged party fails or refuses to appear at the hearing, the board or the hearing committee may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.

H. If, after such hearing, a majority of the entire board membership authorized to participate in the proceeding vote in favor of sustaining the charges; the board may take enforcement action against the charged party. Any charges found by the board after a hearing to be unfounded shall be published in the official journal of the board, if requested in writing by the charged party.

I. A charged party aggrieved by any enforcement action taken by the board may appeal there from, pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

J. In addition to any other action, the board may assess all reasonable costs incurred in connection with an enforcement proceeding, including investigators', stenographers', and attorneys' fees in conjunction with any other enforcement action taken. The assessment of costs may be considered enforcement action.

K. All enforcement actions taken shall be published in the official journal of the board and may be released to other professional organizations relating to professional engineering and land surveying or to the news media.

L. The board may make informal disposition by consent order, agreement, settlement, or default of any enforcement proceeding pending before it. Each such informal disposition shall have no force or effect unless ratified by the board at its next regular meeting. Consent orders may be considered enforcement actions.

M. The board may establish a complaint review committee to investigate, mediate, or initiate enforcement or legal proceedings on behalf of the board with respect to charges preferred or information received by the board alleging that a non-licensee or non-certificate holder committed or engaged in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section. The complaint review committee shall consist of at least one member of the board.

N. Any individual non-licensee or non-certificate holder found by a district court to have committed any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, upon conviction, suffer imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months. This penalty shall be in addition to any other enforcement action taken by the board.

O. It shall be the duty of the attorney general, all district attorneys, and all duly constituted officers of the law of this state, or any political subdivision thereof, to enforce the

provisions of this Chapter and to prosecute any persons violating same. The attorney general of this state, or his assistant, shall act as legal advisor to the board if the board requests such and render such legal assistance as may be deemed necessary by the board in carrying out the provisions of this Chapter, provided that this shall not relieve the local prosecuting officers of any of their duties under the law as such.

P. Repealed by Acts 2004, No. 442, §2.

Q. Alternatively, following an investigation of any charges preferred or information received by the board alleging that a non-licensee or non-certificate holder committed or engaged in any of the acts or offenses listed in Subsection A of this Section, and dependent upon the result of such investigation, the board may present its findings to the district attorney in whose district such act or offense has occurred and shall aid in the prosecution of the violator; or the board may, if it deems necessary, prosecute any violator directly and in its own name, in any district court of this state for such act or offense. Such action may be instituted by any member, attorney, employee, or agent of the board.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1989, No. 149, §1; Acts 1993, No. 53, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5; Acts 2004, No. 442, §§1, 2.

### **37:701. Public and private work; application of provisions**

A. Persons performing sub professional work as defined in the rules or regulations of the board, or acting as construction or process superintendents or foremen, need not be licensed under this Chapter, but their work shall be supervised by a professional engineer when their work involves the practice of engineering, and by a professional land surveyor when the work involves the practice of land surveying.

B. No planning, specifications, drawings, or construction by an individual for his own use of private homes or dwellings, domestic structures or works, or any agricultural works done on farmlands shall come under the jurisdiction of this Chapter.

C. This Chapter shall not apply to, affect, interfere with, or in any way regulate employees of firms engaged in industrial operations, including but not limited to producing, processing, manufacturing, transmitting, distributing, or transporting, when performing services within the state of Louisiana in the course and scope of the business of said firms or affiliates thereof. In the event any of the activities set forth in this Subsection shall fall within the definition of practice of engineering as defined in R.S. 37:682, such activities shall be under the responsible charge of a professional engineer.

However, this Subsection shall not apply to persons practicing civil engineering or land surveying, who must at all times comply with the provisions of this Chapter.

D. All land surveying shall be performed by a professional land surveyor, who, for purposes of this Subsection, shall be any person who practices land surveying within the meaning and intent of this Chapter, and who, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a land surveyor.

E. A person shall not be construed as practicing land surveying who establishes lines and elevations for canals or levees for irrigation or erosion control on lands owned,



rented, or leased by him if such person performing the work received no remuneration of any kind for his services.

F. Services performed by employees in determining lines within established boundaries and between established corners of property owned by, leased to, or under the control of their employers in the course and scope of such employer's business, and in locating drilling sites, lines of pipe, or improvements on such property, shall not be construed as falling under the definition of "practice of land surveying" within the meaning of this Chapter, and are not covered by this Chapter.

G. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as permitting any person, other than a professional engineer, to affix his signature as such to engineering plans, specifications, or estimates.

H. (1) Any licensed architect, professional engineer, or professional land surveyor, engaged by the owner of a particular piece or parcel of ground to perform architectural, engineering, or land surveying services, as such services are defined in R.S. 37:141 and 682, shall have a lien and privilege against the particular piece or parcel of ground with respect to which the services were rendered, when work on said piece or parcel of ground, as defined in R.S. 9:4808, has not begun.

(2) A written statement of the claim must be filed for registry with the recorder of mortgages of the parish in which the immovable property is located within ninety days of the date of rendition of the services and shall not be effective as to third persons until such time as the statement of the claim is so filed, but thereafter shall be a first lien and privilege superior to any lien, privilege, or mortgage subsequently recorded. This lien or privilege shall be ranked as provided by R.S. 9:4821.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1984, No. 513, §1; Acts 1987, No. 694, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

{{NOTE: SEE ACTS 1987, NO. 694, §§2 AND 3.}}

### **37:702. saving clause**

This Chapter shall not be construed to prevent or to affect:

(1) Other professions or trades including the practice of architecture as defined in Chapter 3 of this Title; or the practice of any legally recognized profession or trade; or the professional practice of the physical sciences, such as: chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, so long as they do not involve the practice of engineering or land surveying; or

(2) The practice of a person not a resident of and having no established place of business in this state, practicing or offering to practice herein the profession of engineering, when such practice does not exceed one hundred twenty consecutive days in any calendar year, provided such person is legally qualified by licensure to practice the said profession in his own state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, in which the requirements and the qualifications for obtaining a license are not lower than those specified in this Chapter, and provided further, that before beginning such temporary practice in this state, the person shall have applied to

the board, paid the prescribed fee, and received a temporary permit, and upon the conclusion of such work he shall advise the board as to the period of time that he has practiced in this state under such temporary permit.

(3) The practice of officers and employees of the government of the United States while engaged within this state in the practice of engineering or land surveying, for said government.

(4) Cooperatives under the rural electrification administration; engineering performed by cooperatives under the Rural Electrification Acts.

(5) The practice of engineering exclusively as an officer or employee of a public utility corporation authorized to do and doing business in this state, by rendering to such corporation such service in connection with its facilities and property which are subject to regulation with respect to safety and security thereof by the Public Service Commission of the state of Louisiana, or other duly authorized utility regulatory body, and so long as such individual is thus actually and exclusively employed, and no longer, and the practice of engineering as an officer or employee of a person furnishing products, services, or facilities used primarily by a public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission of the state of Louisiana, or other duly authorized utility regulatory body, and so long as such officer or employee is thus actually and exclusively employed and no longer, provided this does not apply to the practice of civil engineering or land surveying.

(6) Engaging in engineering as an employee under the responsible charge of a professional engineer or engaging in land surveying as an employee under the responsible charge of a professional land surveyor.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1995, No. 827, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1; Acts 2003, No. 279, §5.

### **37:703. Transitional provisions**

Any and all rules and regulations of the board adopted prior to August 15, 1999, shall be and shall remain effective without re adoption or further promulgation by the board.

Acts 1980, No. 568, §1; Acts 1999, No. 396, §1.