

CHAPTER 965

S.B. No. 604

AN ACT

relating to certain requirements for registration as a professional engineer.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 12, The Texas Engineering Practice Act (Article 3271a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION. (a) The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is qualified for registration as a professional engineer~~[-to-wit]~~:

(1) *graduation* [~~(a) Graduation~~] from an approved *curriculum* [~~course~~] in engineering that is [~~of four (4) years or more in a recognized school or college~~] approved by the Board as of satisfactory standing, *passage of the examination requirements prescribed by the Board*, and a specific record of an additional four (4) years or more of active practice in engineering work, of a character satisfactory to the Board, indicating that the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of such work; or

(2) graduation from an engineering or related science curriculum at a recognized institution of higher education, other than a curriculum approved by the Board under Subdivision (1) of this subsection, passage of the examination requirements prescribed by the Board, ~~[(b) Successfully passing a written, or written and oral, examination designed to show knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation from an approved four (4) years engineering course;]~~ and a specific record of at least eight (8) years of active practice in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the Board and indicating that the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of such work.

~~[(c) At any time within five (5) years after this Act becomes effective the Board may accept as evidence that the applicant is qualified for registration as a professional engineer a specific record of twelve (12) years or more of active practice in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the Board and indicating that the applicant is qualified to design, to operate, or to supervise construction of engineering work and has had responsible charge of important engineering work for at least five (5) years and provided applicant is not less than thirty-five (35) years of age, and was not practicing professional engineering at the time this Act becomes effective.]~~

~~[(d) After this Act shall have been in effect five (5) years, the Board shall issue certificates of registration only to those applicants who meet the requirements of Section 12, (a), or (b), or Section 21.]~~

(b) ~~[(e)]~~ Provided, that no person shall be eligible for registration as a professional engineer who is not of good character and reputation; and provided further, that any engineer *registered* ~~[licensed]~~ under this Act shall be eligible to hold any appointive engineering position with the State of Texas.

(c) ~~[(f)]~~ In considering the qualifications of applicants, responsible charge of engineering teaching may be construed as responsible charge of engineering work. ~~[The satisfactory completion of each year of an approved course in engineering in a school or college approved by the Board as of satisfactory standing, without graduation, shall be considered as equivalent to a year of active practice. Graduation in a course other than engineering from a college or university of recognized standing shall be considered as equivalent to two (2) years of active practice; provided, however, that no applicant shall receive credit for more than four (4) years of active practice because of educational qualifications.]~~ The mere execution, as a contractor, of work designed by a professional engineer, or the supervision of the construction of such work as foreman or superintendent shall not be deemed to be active practice in engineering work.

(d) ~~[(g)]~~ Any person having the necessary qualifications prescribed in this Act to entitle him to registration shall be eligible for such registration though he may not be practicing at the time of making his application.

SECTION 2. Section 12a, The Texas Engineering Practice Act (Article 3271a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is redesignated as Section 12.1 and is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.1 ~~[12a]~~. CERTIFICATION OF ENGINEER-IN-TRAINING. (a) The term "Engineer-in-Training," as used in this Section shall mean a person who complies with the requirements for education~~[, experience]~~ and character, and has passed an examination in the fundamental engineering subjects, as provided in Sections 12 and 14 of this Act.

(b) The following shall be considered as minimum evidence that the applicant is qualified for certification as an Engineer-in-Training:

(1) A graduate of an ~~[approved]~~ engineering curriculum *approved by the Board as of satisfactory standing* ~~[of four (4) years or more]~~ who has passed the Board's eight (8) hour written examination in the fundamentals of engineering shall be certified or enrolled as an Engineer-in-Training, if he is otherwise qualified; or

(2) A graduate of an engineering or related science curriculum at a recognized institution of higher education, other than a curriculum approved by ~~[An applicant having a high school education and a specific record of eight (8) or more years of experience or having completed an approved four (4) year curriculum in engineering technology with six (6) years of experience in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to]~~ the Board under Subdivision (1) of this subsection, who passes the

Board's eight (8) hour written examination in the fundamentals of engineering shall be certified or enrolled as an Engineer-in-Training, if he is otherwise qualified.

(c) The fee for Engineer-in-Training certification or enrollment shall be established by the Board and shall accompany the application. ~~[This fee may be credited toward the fee necessary for registration.]~~

(d) The certification or enrollment of an Engineer-in-Training shall be valid for a period of *eight (8)* ~~[twelve (12)]~~ years.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 14, The Texas Engineering Practice Act (Article 3271a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(a) *On payment of the examination fee, [When] oral or written examinations [are required, they] shall be administered to qualified applicants [held] at such time and place as the Board shall determine. The scope of the examinations and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the Board with special reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise engineering works, which shall insure the safety of life, health, and property. Examinations shall be given for the purpose of determining the qualifications of applicants for registration in professional engineering. The Board may permit reexamination of an applicant on payment of an appropriate reexamination fee in an amount set by the Board. [A candidate failing on examination may apply for re-examination at the expiration of six (6) months and will be re-examined without payment of additional fees. Re-examination may be granted at any time upon payment of a fee to be determined by the Board.]*

SECTION 4. (a) Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect September 1, 1992.

(b) Section 3 of this Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

SECTION 5. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on May 14, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 29, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment except §§ 1, 2 effective Sept. 1, 1992, and § 3 effective Sept. 1, 1987.