

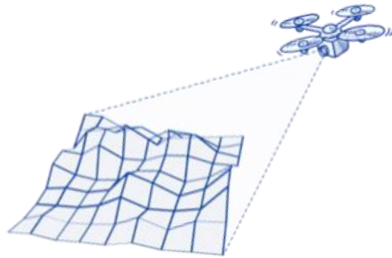


DESIGN Times

A quarterly publication from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation



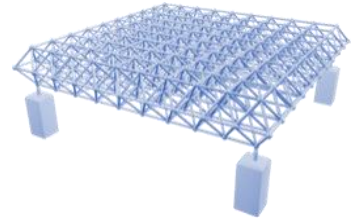
ARCHITECTURE



LAND SURVEYING



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Issue 29 | Winter 2024

THE FUTURE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING IN ILLINOIS

What is the current process to apply for professional licensure?

Many applications for initial licensure or renewal may be completed online, while some applications are exclusively submitted via paper. For paper applications, individuals include a check or money order with their initial mailing. Both methods involve a manual review of credentials, but the paper process is more time-intensive.

Why is this process not working as it should and how does IDFPR intend to solve this issue?

Due to inefficiencies created by an outdated licensing software system from the 1990s - and an unprecedented increase in applications for professional licensure - individuals endured historic wait times to obtain and renew their licenses in 2023.

IDFPR began to lay the groundwork for a new licensing system in the fall of 2022, eventually securing a supplemental appropriation for the purchase of new software in the lame duck session of the 102nd General Assembly. To make a purchase, IDFPR identified multiple procurement methods and elected to utilize "release off master contract," which is a methodology where State agencies use an existing "master contract" to request products and services from a vendor which already has a contract with the State. However, after months of collaboration with the State's Chief Procurement Office, it was determined that this option was not applicable.

As a result, IDFPR partnered with the Illinois General Assembly to pursue an expedited, competitive procurement process, providing the Department 180 days to identify and implement a new licensing software system. [HB 2394 / Public Act 103-0568](#), sponsored by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton and Rep. Bob Morgan, passed both chambers unanimously during the Fall 2023 Veto Session.

What will happen over the next 180 days?

Public Act 103-0568 also enables IDFPR to, over the course of the next year, extend the expiration dates or renewal periods for licensees if the Secretary finds there is a significant operational need to do so to avoid undue hardship.

The bill provides for various factors that may be considered, including the number of pending applications; whether there is a shortage of licensees; the potential impact on the Department's operational budget; and any other licensing-

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ARCHITECT BOARD

Architect Board Chair Appointment



At the scheduled November 3, 2023 meeting, the Architect Board re-appointed Michelle Gillette-Murphy as Chair of the Board for 2024.

A Dual Major Graduate - University of Illinois at Chicago Bachelor of Architecture fifth year Technology major and Bachelor of Arts in History of Architecture and Art with Certificate in Historic Preservation Thesis Midlothian Country Club, Cottage Row and Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect. Graduate - St. Xavier University Master of Business Administration Finance major. Graduate - University of Chicago Leadership in Sustainability Management Professional Certificate Program Capstone Sustainability in a Wastewater Reclamation Agency.

Licensed Architect for 35 years, Registered Interior Designer for 32 years, NCARB Certificate Holder for 35 years, LEED AP BD+C, BECx, ENV SP.

Half of her career has been in Architecture Firm work and the other half has been serving in public government practice of Architecture.

Design group of the Process Facilities Section in the Engineering Department at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicagoland (MWRDGC). Currently the first woman to serve as Principal Architect in the Structural/Architectural

Architecture Act Legislation being tracked —SB2819

As you may know, last year, NCARB updated their exam policy and retired the “five-year rolling clock” for the A.R. E examination. However, Illinois was one of only two jurisdictions which had statutory impediments that would preclude Illinois from being in alignment with the new NCARB policy. Additionally, the Department was unable to introduce any new legislation during the 2023 legislative session or the fall veto session.

To address this issue, the state component of the American Institute of Architects is sponsoring a bill to remove the “five-year rolling clock” language in the statute. Assuming the bill passes and the Governor signs it into law, Illinois would then be in compliance with the new NCARB exam policy.

You may review the bill here:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=2819&GAID=17&SessionID=112&LegID=151620>



PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR BOARD

Professional Land Surveyor Board Chair Appointment



At the scheduled November 16, 2023 meeting, the Professional Land Surveyor Board re-appointed Kim Lyons as Chair of the Board for 2024.

Kim has served on the Board since 2018, earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Bradley University, and works for Hanson Professional Services Inc. in the Peoria area. She is currently in her second term as Board Chair. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, friends, hunting and bowling.

Board Member Changes

IDFPR and the Professional Land Surveyor Board thanked outgoing board member Carol Sweet-Johnson for her years of dedication & service to the Board and providing invaluable knowledge & expertise for the profession to IDFPR.

Derek Twente and Rebecca Popeck were recently appointed & welcomed to the Board. We look forward to their thoughts and insight on the profession and how best to ensure the continued protection of the public.



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER BOARD

Professional Engineer Board Chair Appointment



At the scheduled November 17, 2023 meeting, the Professional Engineering Board re-appointed Brian Berg, Jr. as Chair of the Board for 2024.

Brian is a second-generation engineer. He started working for his father in 1980 when he got his driver's license. He worked through high school and college. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1987 from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He earned his Professional Engineer license in 1992 and is currently the President of Berg Engineering Consultants, Ltd.

He is a noted authority in the design of energy efficient buildings. Some of his engineering has won awards from ASHRAE for their energy efficient design. Many of the firm's energy efficient designs predate the "Green" building movement. Brian has lectured on and written about Energy Efficient design. Brian has also consulted extensively on building systems problems.

Brian is a LEED Accredited Professional and IDPH Pre-Qualified Swimming Pool Designer. Brian is a member of ASHRAE, NSPE, ISPE, NFPA, ASHE, HESNI, and ASPE.

In 2018 Brian decided to give back to his profession by volunteering to be a member of the State Board of Professional Engineers.

He also volunteers in his local community. He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates and a member of the Schaumburg Park Foundation. He is also a Commissioner of the Schaumburg Park District.

Professional Engineering Act Legislation Being Tracked —SB2909

Senator Adriane Johnson introduced a bill to require the PE Rules to accept Engineering Technology degrees for licensure. The Department was made aware of this bill shortly after it was filed. We have notified NCEES and several stakeholders in Illinois. The Department's general counsel assigned to the profession will be preparing a legislative analysis to provide to Department's Legislative Director for the recommended position for the Department to have on this bill. We will continue to track the progress of the bill.

You may review the bill here:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2909&GAID=17&DocTypeID=SB&SessionID=112&GA=103>

Important Change Regarding Acceptance of the NCEES PE Civil/Structural Examination

Beginning with the April 2024 administration, the NCEES Civil/Structural discipline of the Principles and Practice of engineering examination will no longer be accepted toward satisfying the PE examination requirement in Illinois. To be licensed in Illinois as a professional engineer, as of April 1, 2024, applicants would need to pass any other "8" hour PE examination.

This removal is occurring as a result to the changes with the exam specification/content that are scheduled to take effect beginning with the April 2024 administration of the NCEES PE Civil/Structural examination. Beginning in April, the PE Civil Exams will no longer have a common (civil) breadth portion. At that time, each exam will be its own standalone discipline specific exam.

For the Civil/Structural exam, that means that all 80 questions on the examination will consist of strictly Structural aspects, which is outside the scope of practice for a PE under Section 4 (o) of the and therefore unable to be accepted toward satisfying the examination for a PE license in Illinois. The other Civil sub-discipline exams (Geotechnical, Transportation, Water Resources, and Construction) will continue to be accepted as their exam contents remain within the PE scope of practice.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER BOARD

Structural Engineer Board Chair Appointment



At the scheduled November 15, 2023 meeting, the Structural Engineering Board re-appointed Chad Hodel as Chair of the Board for 2024.

Chad Hodel, P.E., S.E., joined the IL Structural Engineering Board in 2019 and has been the Board Chair since 2021. Chad is from the Springfield area and earned Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He started his structural engineering career with the Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Bridges and Structures before joining the consulting engineering firm WHKS in 2008. Chad is currently a Principal, Vice President, and the IL Structure Practice Area Lead for WHKS. Chad has also volunteered with the NCEES Structural Exam Development Committee since 2003.

Board Member Changes

IDFPR and the Structural Engineer Board thanked outgoing board member Steve Bishop for his years of dedication & service to the Board and providing invaluable knowledge & expertise for the profession to IDFPR.

Daniel Lutz and Alicia Kamischke were recently appointed & welcomed to the Board. We look forward to their thoughts and insight on the profession and how best to ensure the continued protection of the public.

Structural Engineer Examination Changes

In an earlier newsletter, we shared that the NCEES PE Structural exam format was changing from paper & pencil to computer-based, beginning with the April 2024 administration of the exam. In addition to that change, the exam will no longer be comprised of two separate eight-hour exams.

The new exam is composed of two components—vertical and lateral. Each component includes a breadth section and a depth section. Breadth and depth sections are taken separately and at different times and receive independent results. In essence, there are four separate five-hour examinations that must be passed.

Acceptable results must be obtained on both components to pass the exam. Once acceptable results are obtained on a component, those results do not expire. Examinees who have received acceptable results on one component before the transition to computer-based testing must take and achieve acceptable results on the two sections for the remaining component only.

Illinois is drafting amendments to the Rules for this profession to address the changes and they should be in place later this Spring/Summer.

You may find additional information on the NCEES website here:

<https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/cbt-structural/>

THE FUTURE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING (CONT.)

related factors that are deemed relevant by the Department. This final factor will be prescribed in administrative rule-making.

The timeline for the selection and implementation of the new software system is specified in the Public Act. The contracts for the new software must be executed no later than 90 days after the [immediate] effective date of the bill. Then, implementation must begin no later than 90 days after the contract execution date. The Department envisions onboarding the professions and licensees to its new system in stages.

What is IDFPR looking for - and authorized to purchase - in a new licensing system, and what could that timeline look like?

Under Public Act 103-0568, the new licensing software has to electronically provide for the issuance of licenses and the processing of new application and renewal fees. Additionally, the software must provide applicants and licensees with online access to their license status and history. In short, the new software system will ensure that every application and fee payment will be available online, and the user experience will provide an individual with more insight into the status of their application or renewal.

REACTIVATE YOUR LICENSE

To best assist licensees with this process, the Department has implemented a specific page on the website for requesting a reinstatement of licensure if you failed to renew your license during the specified pre-renewal window, you may reinstate your license to active status.

A reinstatement packet will be provided for licenses which expired or went inactive less than five years ago. A restoration packet will be provided for licenses which expired or went inactive more than five years ago.

While you currently can't apply and pay for your reinstatement online, adding this page will provide a direct method for you to notify the Department of your request and allow DPR staff to email you with the appropriate forms and fee due.

You may access the page here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/dpr/reactivate-your-license.html>

MONTHLY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TAKEN

Information regarding disciplinary actions taken by IDFPR against unlicensed individuals and licensed professionals and businesses are public record and available on our website. Many of these actions are the final outcome of what began as a complaint submitted to the Department.

Recent Enforcement actions are available below.

Timothy Le Vaughn, 001012733 - Architect license suspended for being more than 30 days delinquent in the payment of child support.

QUICK LINKS

To better serve applicants and licensees, several important functions may be found on the Department website. A list of these services is below for your convenience to ensure a quick and accurate interaction with the Department.

Apply for a license: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/newapplications.html>

License Look-up: <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/lookup/licenselookup.aspx>

Update your contact information: <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/>

Download a license: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/fpr-applications/getmylicense/loginprof.html>

Request a license and/or exam certification/verification:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/cert-req-design-2022.pdf>

Review the Code Enforcement Manual:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/design-code-manual.pdf>

Registration for a Professional Design Firm:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/renewals/apply/forms/f1419lt.pdf>

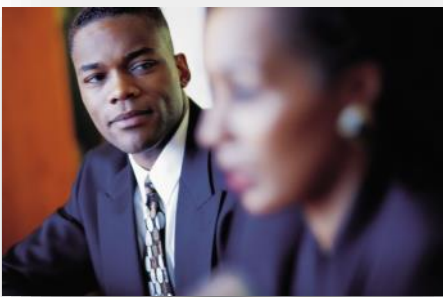
Add or remove services from your firm:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/renewals/apply/forms/f2309.pdf>

File a complaint: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/admin/complaints.html>



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS



Members of the public are invited to attend the open session of Board Meetings to gain a better understanding of the current topics and issues prevalent in the respective professions as well as how the Board is working to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public are being protected.

As unforeseen issues may occur, always check the Department website to ensure that the Board is meeting.

Note: members of the public wishing to attend a meeting in-person must request a guest pass to attend the meeting three days prior to the meeting and may do so by emailing fpr.boards@illinois.gov with your Full Name, Board Meeting Name and Meeting Date.

March

Architect Board, 3/22/2024

Structural Engineering Board, 3/27/2024

Professional Engineering Board, 3/28/2024

Professional Land Surveyor Board, 3/29/2024

May

Architect Board, 5/24/2024

Structural Engineering Board, 5/29/2024

Professional Engineering Board, 5/30/2024

Professional Land Surveyor Board, 5/31/2024

CE/PDH CREDIT

State of Illinois

Continuing Education / Professional Development Credit

Reading this newsletter is worth credit toward your Illinois Design Profession license renewal requirement of Illinois state statutes and rules. This shall serve notice and certify that the person named below has earned 0.25 Continuing Education for Architects and Structural Engineers and 0.25 Professional Development for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

To receive CE/PDH credit, you must complete and score 70% or higher on the online quiz, and maintain a copy of the quiz score notification.

Access the quiz here: <https://forms.office.com/g/9DLSk1DMXv>

DID YOU MOVE? CHANGE JOBS?

CHANGE EMAIL ACCOUNTS?

It is your responsibility as a professional to make sure that your contact information is up to date to receive all department notifications and courtesy renewal reminder notices.

Update your contact information by accessing your online account at <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com>
or by calling 1.800.560.6420



Did you know IDFPR is comprised of four Divisions?

In addition to the Division of Professional Regulation that oversees design professions, there are also the Division of Banking, Division of Financial Institutions, and Division of Real Estate.

Learn more about IDFPR – and the resources for licensees and consumers on our website idfpr.illinois.gov

*Please let us know how we can serve you better by
emailing your comments and suggestions to us at: FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov*



IDFPR

**Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation**
Division of Professional Regulation



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