

## **RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **TITLE 245. OKLAHOMA STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS**

#### **CHAPTER 15. LICENSING AND PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS**

**Purpose:**

The proposed revisions to the subchapters are as follows:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions: The proposed amendments will align existing definitions with statute revisions signed into law by Governor Stitt in 2024; modernize definitions to include updated methods using technological advances, and general clean-up language.

Subchapter 3. Application and Eligibility for Licensing: The proposed amendments will:

- allow for a more expedited process with fewer obstacles for examinations, licensure and simplify the process for new licensees obtaining their original license in Oklahoma, and
- allow applicants who have a PhD in engineering to waive the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination as a step towards licensure, which is allowed in some neighboring states. Oklahoma State University requested the Board to consider this amendment to allow them to have a better opportunity to compete with other states to hire and tenure well-qualified applicants for their engineering departments, and
- allow surveyor applicants to waive the requirement to have 2 years of qualifying experience following their degree in certain circumstances to remove a barrier to licensure for qualified applicants, and
- define a qualifying “board-approved” education program as a ETAC/ABET or ANSAC/ABET accredited program by July 1, 2032. This timeframe will allow ample time for existing programs to obtain accreditation or new programs to be developed to ensure Oklahoma has quality education programs available in Oklahoma, and
- provide a clear pathway to allow the licensing of international engineers through Mutual Recognition Agreements, such as the U.K. MRA which the Board signed at the urging of the Governor’s office in August 2024, and
- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024.

Subchapter 5. Examinations: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024,
- remove duplicate language, and
- allow for updates made to the national licensing examinations.

Subchapter 7. Licensure: The proposed amendments will:

- update expired language, allow for individuals with expired licenses to reinstate their licenses up to 2 years following expiration instead of after 6 months. This will expedite the relicensing process for individuals with expired licenses while still protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Subchapter 9. Rules of Professional Conduct: The proposed amendments will:

- reorganize the existing language in a more modern manner; and
- include a definition for “responsible charge” which will allow surveyors to utilize electronic means of communication without requiring in person supervision.

Subchapter 11. Continuing Education: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024,
- update and modernize language, and
- shorten the timeframe to provide additional continuing education because so much is readily available online.

Subchapter 13. Minimum Standards for Land Surveying: The proposed amendments developed in conjunction with the Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors will:

- clarify and update minimum standard requirements.

Subchapter 15. Ethical Marketing of Services: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024.

Subchapter 17. Licensee’s Seal: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024, and
- move the “responsible charge” provisions to *Subchapter 9. Rules of Professional Conduct*, and
- modernize the language.

Subchapter 19. Organizational Practice: The proposed amendments will:

- modernize the language,
- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024, and
- provide for the same reinstatement provisions proposed in Subchapter 7 for individuals.

Subchapter 21. Corner Perpetuation and Filing Act Requirements: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024.

Subchapter 23. Violations: The proposed amendments will:

- remove the word “land” from all references to surveying, as approved by legislation in 2024,
- and allow the Board to consider certain extenuating factors regarding administrative fines, which are also in the national model rules.

- Persons affected – Licensees of the Board. Public notice was issued regarding the proposed rule language and public comment has been requested. The Board will consider comments from the public and, if applicable, will include the public comments in the rule revisions.

- Persons who will benefit: The future licensees of the Board will benefit from clear requirements regarding education; licensees who wish to retire their licenses will benefit; citizens requesting surveys will benefit by receiving a quality survey.

- Economic Impact to persons who will bear the cost: No cost impact

- Costs and benefits to the agency; source of revenue to be used: No cost impact to the agency or the citizens of the state of Oklahoma.