



SB13-161: Sunset Licensing Bill for Architects, Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors

American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado asks for your support of SB13-161: Sunset Licensing Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors without the anticipated amendment for mandatory continuing education for professional engineers.

- For over 1.5 years, meetings were held with DORA, the architects, professional land surveyors and several engineering organizations with professional engineers that resulted in an amended SB13-161 that we agree with and was passed by the full Senate on March 13, 2013.
- Overall we support DORA's recommendations in their sunset review report for professional engineers, and have appreciated the opportunity to work with them throughout this process.
- The State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors and the Sunset Review Report did not recommend mandatory continuing education for professional engineers.
- Professional engineers take the duty to protect the public's health, safety and welfare very seriously. They take it upon themselves to remain current with the latest innovations and changes that impact the profession.
- All engineering organizations, including the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO), support continuing education. ACEC/CO's Code of Ethics stipulates members will: "Continue their professional development throughout their career, and shall provide opportunities for the development of those under their supervision."
- Our Colorado engineering organizations provide numerous continuing education opportunities throughout the year for members and non-members that address the specific technical, business and ethical needs of the profession.
- Very recently the Colorado Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers filed an application with DORA for mandatory continuing education requirement for professional engineers. We anticipate an amendment to SB13-161 mandating continuing education for professional engineers. ACEC/CO opposes this amendment.

- DORA's Sunset Review report shows that the public considers Colorado professional engineers to be very competent. The latest statistics for FY 2010-11 for professional engineers show that there are 22,829 licensees; 135 complaints were filed by the public - only 22 of those 135 complaints were practice-related (page 46 and 48 of the analyst's report).
- A November 2012 Gallup poll shows that the public considers the engineering profession the 3rd most ethical profession. 1st are nurses, 2nd pharmacists, and tied for 3rd with doctors.
- The basis of the application for mandatory continuing education is a 1985 study that concluded: "although the need for continuing education is well recognized, no clear objectives for such programs or ways of assessing their effectiveness have been established by any of the individuals and organizations involved."
- Currently, Colorado professional engineers are not encountering any barriers to practice in other states because Colorado does not have mandatory continuing education requirements for licensure renewal.
- The additional resources needed by DORA to oversee an additional requirement are unwarranted and brings no additional benefit to protecting the public. ACEC/CO supports Governor Hickenlooper and DORA's on-going efforts to reduce unnecessary regulations.
- Some of the engineers that belong to the group proposing mandatory continuing education are not licensed. Non-licensed engineers are not regulated by DORA and would not be impacted by this mandate. The author of ASCE/CO's mandatory continuing education application is not a Colorado professional engineer.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado asks for your support of SB13-161 for professional engineers as passed by the Colorado Senate.

Respectfully submitted by Marilen Reimer, Executive Director
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ACEC/CO is a trade association for consulting engineering firms in private practice; we address the business interests of our membership. We have 230 member firms that employ over 10,000 people in the state of Colorado. Our members are owners and principals of the firms in all of the engineering disciplines in the built environment - civil, transportation, water, environmental, structural, mechanical, electrical, and energy. Our member firms have at least one Colorado professional engineer in responsible charge in their Colorado office, but most have several. Their duty is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. Most of our firms are employee owned. Over 75% of our members firms employ 30 people or less.