LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 834

Introduced by Arch, 14. Read first time January 08, 2020 Committee:

1	A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Engineers and Architects Regulation
2	Act; to amend sections 81-3401, 81-3403, 81-3416.01, 81-3428,
3	81-3429, 81-3432, 81-3433, 81-3438, 81-3448, and 81-3451, Revised
4	Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, and section 81-3453, Revised
5	Statutes Supplement, 2019; to define and redefine terms; to change
6	and eliminate provisions related to the Board of Engineers and
7	Architects, credentials issued under the act, and the practice of
8	engineering; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
9	sections.

10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 81-3401, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 2018, is amended to read:

81-3401 Sections 81-3401 to 81-3455 and section 3 of this act shall
be known and may be cited as the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.
Sec. 2. Section 81-3403, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2018, is amended to read:

81-3403 For purposes of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act,
the definitions found in sections 81-3404 to 81-3427 and section 3 of
<u>this act</u> shall be used.

Sec. 3. <u>ABET means an entity incorporated as the Accreditation</u>
 <u>Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc., which is a nongovernmental</u>
 <u>organization that accredits postsecondary education programs.</u>

Sec. 4. Section 81-3416.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2018, is amended to read:

15 81-3416.01 Intern architect means a person who has enrolled in the 16 <u>Architectural Experience</u> Intern Development Program of the National 17 Council of Architectural Registration Boards and holds a degree from a 18 program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board or 19 equivalent.

20 Sec. 5. Section 81-3428, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 21 2018, is amended to read:

22 81-3428 (1) The Board of Engineers and Architects is created to 23 administer the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act. The board shall 24 consist of eight members appointed by the Governor for terms of five 25 years terminating on the last day of February. The board shall consist 26 of:

(a) Three architect members, two of whom shall be appointed after
consulting with the appropriate architectural professional organizations,
and one education member who is a faculty member of the University of
Nebraska appointed upon the recommendation of the Dean of Architecture of
the University of Nebraska;

-2-

1 (b) Four professional engineer members, three of whom shall be 2 appointed after consulting with the appropriate engineering professional 3 organizations, and one education member who is a faculty member of the 4 University of Nebraska appointed upon the recommendation of the Dean of 5 Engineering of the University of Nebraska; and

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(c) One public member.

7 (2) Each member shall hold office after the expiration of his or her term until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified. 8 9 Vacancies in the membership of the board, however created, shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Governor. The 10 Governor shall reappoint or replace existing members as their terms 11 expire, and the public member shall be reappointed or replaced in the 12 fifth year of his or her term. The Governor may remove any member of the 13 board for misconduct, incompetency, or neglect of duty. 14

(3) Each member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States 15 16 and a resident of the State of Nebraska for at least one year immediately 17 preceding appointment. Each architect or professional engineer member shall have been engaged in the active practice of the design profession 18 19 for at least ten years and τ shall have been licensed in the relevant profession had direct supervision of work for at least five years at the 20 time of his or her appointment, and shall be licensed in the relevant 21 22 profession.

(4) The board may designate a former member of the board as an
emeritus member, but for no more than ten years after his or her original
board membership expires. Emeritus member status, when conferred, must be
renewed annually.

27 (5) The board offices shall be located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

28 Sec. 6. Section 81-3429, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 29 2018, is amended to read:

30 81-3429 (1) Each member of the board shall receive as compensation
 31 not more than one hundred dollars per day <u>or portion of a day for (a)</u>

-3-

participating in meetings for each day or substantial portion of a day 1 2 spent traveling to and from and attending sessions of the board and its committees, (b) traveling to or attending authorized meetings of the 3 4 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the National 5 Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, or their subdivisions or committees on which the member serves, and (c) τ other business as 6 7 authorized by the board. Participation in, attendance at, and conduct of such authorized activities by telephone or electronic means shall be 8 9 eligible for such compensation.

10 (2) Each member of the board shall be reimbursed for all necessary 11 and authorized expenses incident to the performance of his or her duties 12 under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act as provided in sections 13 81-1174 to 81-1177.

Sec. 7. Section 81-3432, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,2018, is amended to read:

81-3432 The Engineers and Architects Regulation Fund is created. The 16 17 secretary of the board shall receive and account for all money derived from the operation of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act and 18 19 shall remit the money to the State Treasurer for credit to the Engineers and Architects Regulation Fund. All expenses certified by the board as 20 properly and necessarily incurred in the discharge of duties, including 21 compensation and administrative staff, and any expense incident to the 22 administration of the act relating to other states shall be paid out of 23 24 the fund. Debt repayments payable pursuant to section 81-3432.01 shall be 25 paid out of the fund. Warrants for the payment of expenses shall be issued by the Director of Administrative Services and paid by the State 26 27 Treasurer upon presentation of vouchers regularly drawn by the 28 chairperson and secretary of the board and approved by the board. At no time shall the total amount of warrants exceed the total amount of the 29 fees collected under the act and to the credit of the fund. Any money in 30 the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state 31

-4-

investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Money in the Engineers and
 Architects Regulation Fund may be transferred to the General Fund at the
 direction of the Legislature.

5 The State Treasurer shall transfer three hundred thousand dollars 6 from the Engineers and Architects Regulation Fund to the General Fund on 7 or before June 15, 2018, on such dates and in such amounts as directed by 8 the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of 9 Administrative Services.

Sec. 8. Section 81-3433, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2018, is amended to read:

12 81-3433 The board shall maintain and make available to the public a 13 complete roster of all architects and professional engineers showing 14 their names and last-known addresses. The board shall file the roster 15 with the Secretary of State and may distribute a copy of the roster to 16 each licensed person as well as county and municipal officials. The board 17 may charge a fee for distributing the roster.

Sec. 9. Section 81-3438, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2018, is amended to read:

81-3438 Certificates of licensure and certificates of authorization 20 shall expire on a date established by the board and shall become invalid 21 22 after that date unless renewed. The board shall notify every person licensed under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act and every 23 24 organization holding a certificate of authorization under the act of the 25 date of the expiration of the certificate of licensure or certificate of authorization and the amount of the fee required for renewal. The notice 26 shall be provided mailed at least one month in advance of the date of the 27 28 expiration to the licensee or organization at the last-known address on file with the board. Valid certificates may be renewed prior to 29 expiration upon application and payment of applicable fees. Expired 30 certificates may be renewed in accordance with rules and regulations of 31

-5-

the board. Renewal fees shall not exceed two hundred dollars per year. 1 2 The board may require licensees to obtain continuing education as a condition of license renewal. 3 Sec. 10. Section 81-3448, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 4 5 2018, is amended to read: 6 81-3448 (1) The following shall be considered as the minimum 7 evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for admission to an examination on technical and professional subjects of 8 9 architecture as prescribed by the board: 10 (a) Graduation from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, or satisfying the requirements of the 11 12 Education Standard of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards as determined by the council; 13 (b) Establishment of a record maintained by the National Council of 14 15 Architectural Registration Boards for the purpose of documenting architectural work experience for the council's Intern Development 16 17 Program; and (c) Submittal of an application accompanied by the fee established 18 by the board. 19 (1) (2) The following shall be considered as the minimum evidence 20 satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for initial 21 22 licensure as an architect: (a)(i) Graduation from a program accredited by the National 23 24 Architectural Accrediting Board; (ii) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian 25 Architectural Certification Board; or 26 (iii) Satisfying the requirements of the Education Standard of the 27 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards as determined by 28 the council; 29 (b) (a) Passage of an examination on technical and professional 30 subjects of architecture as prescribed by the board as set forth in 31

-6-

1 subsection (1) of this section;

<u>(c)</u> (b) Completion of the <u>Architectural Experience</u> Intern
Development Program of the National Council of Architectural Registration
Boards, or its equivalent as determined by the council <u>or the Board of</u>
<u>Engineers and Architects</u>;

6 (d) (c) Passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and other
 7 requirements unique to this state; and

8 <u>(e)</u> (d) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character 9 by attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of 10 references acceptable to the board shall be included in the application 11 for licensure.

12 (2) (3) An individual holding a license to practice architecture 13 issued by a proper authority of any jurisdiction, based on credentials 14 that do not conflict with subsection (1) (2) of this section and other 15 provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act, may, upon 16 application, be licensed as an architect after:

17 (a) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and18 other requirements unique to this state; and

(b) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by
attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references
acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for
licensure.

(3) (4) An individual who holds a current and valid certification
 issued by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and
 who submits satisfactory evidence of such certification to the board may,
 upon application, be licensed as an architect after:

27 (a) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and
28 other requirements unique to this state; and

(b) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by
attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references
acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for

-7-

1 licensure.

2 <u>(4)</u> (5) An individual who has been licensed to practice architecture 3 for fifteen years or more in one or more jurisdictions and who has 4 practiced architecture for fifteen years in compliance with the licensing 5 laws in the jurisdictions where his or her architectural practice has 6 occurred since initial licensure may, upon application, be licensed as an 7 architect after:

8 (a) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and
9 other requirements unique to this state; and

10 (b) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by 11 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references 12 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for 13 licensure.

(5) Upon application to the board in writing and payment of a fee 14 established by the board, an (6) An individual who holds a valid license 15 to practice architecture in another jurisdiction may be issued a 16 17 temporary permit, valid for a definite period of time, to provide architectural services for a specific project. An individual may not be 18 issued more than one temporary permit. No right to practice architecture 19 accrues to such applicant with respect to any other work not set forth in 20 the temporary permit. Temporary permit holders are subject to all of the 21 22 provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act governing the practice of architecture. 23

24 (6) (7) None of the examination materials described in this section
 25 shall be considered public records.

26 (7) (8) The board or its agent shall direct the time and place of 27 the architectural examinations referenced in <u>subsection</u> subsections (1) 28 and (2) of this section.

(8) (9) The board may adopt the examinations and grading procedures
 of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The board
 may also adopt guidelines published by the council.

-8-

(9) (10) Licensure shall be effective upon issuance.
 Sec. 11. Section 81-3451, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
 2018, is amended to read:

4 81-3451 (1) The following shall be considered as the minimum 5 evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for 6 enrollment as an engineer-intern:

7 (a)(i) (a) Graduation from a program accredited by the Engineering
 8 Accreditation Commission of ABET; - or meeting

9 <u>(ii) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian</u>
10 Engineering Accreditation Board; or

(iii) Meeting the Education Standard of the National Council of
 Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as determined by the council;

(b) Passage of an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as
accepted by the <u>Board of Engineers and Architects</u> board;

15 (c) Submittal of an application accompanied by the fee established16 by the board; and

(d) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for enrollment.

(2)(a) The following shall be considered as the minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for admission to the examination on the principles and practice of engineering that is adopted by the board:

25 (i)(A) (i) Graduation from a program accredited by the Engineering
 26 Accreditation Commission of ABET;

27 (B) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian Engineering
 28 Accreditation Board; or

29 <u>(C) Meeting</u>, or meeting the Education Standard of the National 30 Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as determined by the 31 council;

-9-

1 (ii) A record of four years or more of progressive post-accredited2 degree experience on engineering projects of a grade and character which
3 indicates to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice
4 engineering;

5 (ii) (iii) Passage of an examination in the fundamentals of
6 engineering as accepted by the <u>Board of Engineers and Architects</u> board;

7 <u>(iii)</u> (iv) Submittal of an application accompanied by the fee 8 established by the board; and

9 <u>(iv)</u> (v) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character 10 by attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of 11 references acceptable to the board shall be included in the application.

(b) A candidate who fails the principles and practice of engineering examination may apply for reexamination, which may be granted upon payment of a fee established by the board. In the event of a second or subsequent failure, the examinee may, at the discretion of the board, be required to appear before the board with evidence of having acquired the necessary additional knowledge to qualify before admission to the examination.

(3) The following shall be considered as the minimum evidence
satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for licensure as
a professional engineer:

(a) Passage of the principles and practice of engineering
examination as set forth in subsection (2) of this section;

(b) A record of four years or more of progressive post-accrediteddegree experience on engineering projects of a grade and character which
indicates to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice
engineering;

(c) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by
attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references
acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for
licensure; and

-10-

(d) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and
 other requirements unique to this state.

3 (4) An individual holding a license to practice engineering issued 4 by a proper authority of any jurisdiction, based on credentials that do 5 not conflict with subsections (2) and (3) of this section and other 6 provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act, may, upon 7 application, be licensed as a professional engineer after:

8 (a) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by 9 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references 10 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for 11 licensure; and

(b) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and
other requirements unique to this state.

(5) An individual who has been licensed to practice engineering for fifteen years or more in one or more jurisdictions and who has practiced engineering for fifteen years in compliance with the licensing laws in the jurisdictions where his or her engineering practice has occurred since initial licensure may, upon application, be licensed as a professional engineer after:

(a) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by
attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references
acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for
licensure; and

(b) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and
 other requirements unique to this state.

(6) The board may designate a professional engineer as being
 licensed in a specific discipline or branch of engineering signifying the
 area in which the professional engineer has demonstrated competence.

(7) <u>Upon application to the board in writing and payment of a fee</u>
 <u>established by the board, an</u> An individual who holds a valid license to
 practice engineering in another jurisdiction may be issued a temporary

-11-

permit, valid for a definite period of time, to provide engineering services for a specific project. An individual may not be issued more than one temporary permit. No right to practice engineering accrues to such applicant with respect to any other work not set forth in the temporary permit. Temporary permit holders are subject to all of the provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act governing the practice of engineering.

8 (8) None of the examination materials described in this section9 shall be considered public records.

10 (9) The board or its agent shall direct the time and place of the 11 engineering examinations referenced in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of 12 this section.

(10) The board may adopt the examinations and grading procedures of
 the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. The
 board may also adopt guidelines published by the council.

16 (11) Licensure shall be effective upon issuance.

17 Sec. 12. Section 81-3453, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is 18 amended to read:

19 81-3453 The provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation
20 Act regulating the practice of engineering do not apply to the following
21 activities:

22 (1) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a detached single-family through four-family dwelling of less than five 23 24 thousand square feet above grade finished space. Any detached or attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the dwelling are not 25 included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may be 26 increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the 27 Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, 28 limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in 29 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403; 30

31 (2) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a

-12-

1 one-story commercial or industrial building or structure of less than 2 five thousand square feet above grade finished space which does not exceed thirty feet in height unless such building or structure, or the 3 remodeling or repairing thereof, provides for the employment, housing, or 4 assembly of twenty or more persons. Any detached or attached sheds, 5 6 storage buildings, and garages incidental to the building or structure are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may 7 be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the 8 9 Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in 10 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403; 11

(3) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of farm 12 buildings, including barns, silos, sheds, or housing for farm equipment 13 and machinery, livestock, poultry, or storage and if the structures are 14 designed to be occupied by no more than twenty persons. Such exemption 15 16 may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B, 17 limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in 18 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403; 19

(4) Any public works project with contemplated expenditures for the 20 completed project that do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The 21 board shall adjust the dollar amount in this subdivision every fifth 22 23 year. The first such adjustment after August 27, 2011, shall be effective 24 on July 1, 2014. The adjusted amount shall be equal to the then current amount adjusted by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price 25 Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor 26 Statistics for the five-year period preceding the adjustment date. The 27 28 amount shall be rounded to the next highest one-thousand-dollar amount;

(5) Any alteration, renovation, or remodeling of a building if the
alteration, renovation, or remodeling does not affect architectural or
engineering safety features of the building;

-13-

(6) The teaching, including research and service, of engineering
 subjects in a college or university offering an ABET-accredited
 engineering curriculum of four years or more;

4 (7) A public service provider or an organization who employs a
5 licensee performing professional services for itself;

6 (8) The practice by a qualified member of another legally recognized 7 profession who is otherwise licensed or certified by this state or any 8 political subdivision to perform services consistent with the laws of 9 this state, the training, and the code of ethics of such profession, if 10 such qualified member does not represent himself or herself to be 11 practicing engineering and does not represent himself or herself to be a 12 professional engineer;

13 (9) The offer to practice engineering by a person not a resident of 14 and having no established place of business in this state if the person 15 is legally qualified by licensure to practice engineering in his or her 16 own state or country. The person shall make application to the board in 17 writing and after payment of a fee established by the board may be 18 granted a temporary permit for a definite period of time not to exceed 19 one year to do a specific job. No right to practice engineering accrues 20 to such applicant with respect to any other work not set forth in the 21 permit;

(9) (10) The work of an employee or a subordinate of a person holding a certificate of licensure <u>or a temporary permit</u> under the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act or an employee of a person practicing lawfully under subdivision (9) of this section if the work is done under the direct supervision of a person holding a certificate of licensure or a <u>temporary permit under the act</u> person practicing lawfully under such subdivision;

(10) (11) Those services ordinarily performed by subordinates under
 direct supervision of a professional engineer or those commonly
 designated as locomotive, stationary, marine operating engineers, power

-14-

1 plant operating engineers, or manufacturers who supervise the operation 2 of or operate machinery or equipment or who supervise construction within 3 their own plant;

4 (11) (12) Financial institutions making disbursements of funds in
 5 connection with construction projects;

6 (12) (13) Earthmoving and related work associated with soil and 7 water conservation practices performed on farmland or any land owned by a 8 political subdivision that is not subject to a permit from the Department 9 of Natural Resources or for work related to livestock waste facilities 10 that are not subject to a permit by the Department of Environment and 11 Energy;

(13) (14) The work of employees and agents of a political 12 13 subdivision or a nonprofit entity organized for the purpose of furnishing electrical service performing, in accordance with other requirements of 14 law, their customary duties in the administration and enforcement of 15 codes, permit programs, and land-use regulations and their customary 16 17 duties in utility and public works construction, operation, and 18 maintenance;

19 <u>(14) (15)</u> Work performed exclusively in the exploration for and 20 development of energy resources and base, precious, and nonprecious 21 minerals, including sand, gravel, and aggregate, which does not have a 22 substantial impact upon public health, safety, and welfare, as determined 23 by the board, or require the submission of reports or documents to public 24 agencies;

25 (15) (16) The construction of water wells as defined in section 26 46-1212, the installation of pumps and pumping equipment into water 27 wells, and the decommissioning of water wells, unless such construction, 28 installation, or decommissioning is required by the owner thereof to be 29 designed or supervised by an engineer or unless legal requirements are 30 imposed upon the owner of a water well as a part of a public water 31 supply;

-15-

1 <u>(16)</u> (17) Work performed in the exploration, development, and 2 production of oil and gas or before the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation 3 Commission; and

(17) (18) Siting, layout, construction, and reconstruction of a 4 private onsite wastewater treatment system with a maximum flow from the 5 6 facility of one thousand gallons of domestic wastewater per day if such 7 system meets all of the conditions required pursuant to the Private 8 Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System 9 Registration Act unless the siting, layout, construction, or 10 reconstruction by an engineer is required by the Department of Environment and Energy, mandated by law or rules and regulations imposed 11 upon the owner of the system, or required by the owner. 12

Sec. 13. Original sections 81-3401, 81-3403, 81-3416.01, 81-3428,
81-3429, 81-3432, 81-3433, 81-3438, 81-3448, and 81-3451, Revised
Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, and section 81-3453, Revised
Statutes Supplement, 2019, are repealed.