

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 609

PRINTER NO. 3566

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional and Occupational Affairs
Restricted Account

DATE INTRODUCED

February 24, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Emrick

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 609 amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law to provide for updates to the practice of engineering, engineer interns and distance education and expands exemptions for licensure and registration.

The legislation updates "practice of engineering" to include design or analysis and modification and alteration. It renames "engineer-in-training" to "engineer intern" and the references to engineer-in-training are changed to engineer intern throughout the law and regulations.

The legislation makes licensure qualifications consistent with Act 53 of 2020 (63 Pa.C.S. 3313) with regard to good moral character by including the use of an individualized assessment when an applicant has a criminal conviction.

The legislation allows a certified engineer-intern to have the required four or more years of progressive experience in engineering work under the supervision of a professional engineer without the limitation of the experience occurring only after issuance of the engineer intern certificate.

The legislation allows for distance education if the course relates to professional practice and the professional development hour units are verifiable and measured by actual hours of instruction.

The legislation expands the exemption from licensure for a public utility to include a contractor or agent of the public utility. The legislation creates a new exemption from licensure for a regular employee, contractor or agent of an electric cooperative corporation so long as the cooperative or its Pennsylvania electric cooperative association employs a professional engineer or professional land surveyor.

The legislation clarifies that both writing of deed descriptions and narrative descriptions utilizing information from a survey are exempt from licensure.

The legislation creates a new exemption from licensure for employees, contractors or agents of a provider of cable service, voice over internet protocol service, broadband internet access service or any other service delivered over a cable system, a provider

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of enhanced telecommunications services or a provider of telecommunications services if those services are in connection with or incidental to products of, or non-engineering, land surveying or geology services rendered by the company.

The is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of House Bill 609 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of State has indicated the cost to implement the changes made to the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law will be minimal and can be accomplished with existing personnel within its existing operating budget.