

Continuing Education for Wisconsin Licensed Professional Engineers

A Summary of Assembly Bill 181 and
Wisconsin Act 47 (through January, 2010)



Presentation Overview:

- 1) Wisconsin Assembly Bill 181
- 2) Wisconsin 2007 Act 47
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- 4) Act 47 Steering Committee Formation
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Wisconsin Assembly Bill 181 History

- **MAY 30, 2007:** [Committee Vote 9-0](#) in executive session . The Committee on Labor and Industry voted 9-0 to send AB 181 to the full Assembly.
- **OCTOBER 24, 2007:** [Bill sent to Assembly Floor for vote on 10/30/07](#) .
- **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2007:** [Bill Passes Assembly on a voice vote and immediately Sent to Senate](#)
- **DECEMBER 4, 2007:** [Senate Committee Hearing](#). PUBLIC HEARING - Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
- **DECEMBER 10, 2007:** [Senate Committee Passes AB 181 3-2](#). The Senate Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs Committee voted to recommend passage of AB 181 with a 3-2 vote following a public hearing in which A-E Joint Board Vice Chair Rosheen Styczinski testified on the bill on behalf of the Board.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 181 History

(continued)

- **JANUARY 16, 2008:** [Senate PASSES AB 181](#) . AB 181 passed concurrence 27 - 5 with 1 non vote. The bill now moves to the Governor's office.
- The text of Assembly Bill 181 can be found at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB-181.pdf>

BASICALLY – an act to create section 443.015 of the statutes:

“443.015 Examining board to establish continuing education requirements. The examining board may establish continuing education requirements for renewal of a credential issued under this chapter.”

Wisconsin 2007 Act 47

- 2007 WISCONSIN ACT 47 - An Act to create 443.015 of the statutes; relating to: continuing education for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers of engineering systems, and land surveyors.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

07 Act 47, Section 1. 443.015 of the statutes is created to read: Examining board to establish continuing education requirements. The examining board may establish continuing education requirements for renewal of a credential issued under this chapter.

- **FEBRUARY 22, 2008: [PASSED AND SIGNED. Assembly Bill 181 became Act 47.](#)** Assembly Bill 181 was passed by both houses and sent to the Governor for signature. The bill became Act 47 in the Governor's report on February 8, 2008. The final bill was published on February 22, 2008.

Why Continuing Education for Engineering Licensure?

- Foremost: A step to *enhance the protection of public health, safety and welfare*
- Makes licensure in other states by reciprocity or comity easier for Wisconsin Professional Engineers.
- Helps Wisconsin Engineers be competitive nationally.
- Nearly all other Wisconsin professions require continuing education
- Wisconsin is in the minority by not requiring continuing education (sometimes referred to as *continued professional competency*, or CPC)
- Based on requirements adopted by other states it is expected that adopted Wisconsin requirements will be reasonable and relatively simple to satisfy.

Act 47 Steering Committee Formation

WSPE's Legislative Committee attended an Engineers Section meeting in April of 2008 to:

- 1) request that individuals and engineering organizations be provided opportunity to partake in the process of developing the particulars of continuing education implementation in Wisconsin*
- 2) offer assistance to DRL and the Engineers Section by spearheading the formation of a "Steering" committee.*

The Engineers Section welcomed both the request and offer and appointed Chuck Kopplin, PE to join the steering committee in an advisory capacity.

- WSPE solicited interest in participating on the committee with brainstorming help from Chuck Kopplin. Chuck's advice to the initial few committee members was to solicit interest from as many engineering organizations as possible.*

Recommendations to Engineers Section of DRL for Implementation of Continuing Education

The Act 47 Steering Committee (SC) submitted a letter to the Engineers Section with following points:

SC consists of representatives of many professional and technical societies/organizations within Wisconsin.

SC found what constitutes "meaningful continuing education" has largely been developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) in their CPC Guidelines (June 2008).

The use of NCEES Guidelines offers the advantage that the continuing education obtained to meet WI requirements would also meet a national standard.

Recommendations to Engineers Section of DRL for Implementation of Continuing Ed. (continued)

SC recommendations to the engineering Section/Joint Board:

- 30 PDHs per two-year renewal period.
- Eliminating the NCEES guideline Model Rule definitions and references to dual licensing for engineers and land surveyors (and other professions).
- Consider creating a form of inactive/or retired status for registration.
- Consider allowing 8 PDHs maximum per two-year renewal period for active professional/technical organization participation (2 PDHs for active officer &/or committee member per organization per year).
- Consider adding to Section 2 G.3 the allowing of family medical leave (including maternity and child rearing leave).
- Consider limiting PDHs to 30 PDHs for reinstatement.

Recommendations to Engineers Section of DRL for Implementation of Continuing Ed. (continued)

WSPE made the following recommendation to the Board that did not have SC consensus:

- Consider requiring 2 PDHs per renewal period for professional ethics or law related to the profession.
- Consider limiting on-line or correspondence courses to 15 PDHs per renewal period.

WSPE & SC thanked the Engineer Section/Joint Board for the opportunity to provide input into the preparation of Act 47 rules.

SC supports implementing Continuing Education requirements as soon as practically possible under Act 47 (such will not take place soon enough to require earning PDHs between 2010 and 2012 for the 2012 registration renewals).

SC stands ready to assist the Board as the rule making procedure continues to provide any other assistance that is requested.

Professional and Technical Organization Endorsements

- The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin
- American Public Works Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers-WI Section
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Madison & Milwaukee Sections
- Society of Women Engineers-WI Section

Continuing Education Implementation Schedule (Tentative)

- Implementation rules drafted by Engineers Section – fall 2009
- Engineers Section (DRL) legal review – early 2010 (note that DRL has lost some of its legal staff and this has slowed things down a bit)
- 2nd draft of rule published for public review/hearing – estimated date = late spring/early summer 2010
- **Public Input Period – From early summer 2010 to ?** There are many particulars to be decided yet. For example – will seminar providers need to have their seminar/materials pre-approved by DRL to be able to offer PDHs? **Please watch for opportunity to comment; and please comment.**

Tentative Implementation Schedule, continued:

- DRL implementation proposed timeline will require the earning of PDHs between the July 2012 and July 2014 renewals to be eligible to renew a PE license in July 2014 (many proponents had pushed for implementation to take place early enough to require earning PDHs between 2010 and 2012; Engineers Section advised, though, to “get it right the first time” and not rush the process of review/input).

Contact Information for Questions/Comments



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