



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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RESOLUTION ON ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

Whereas, in 2006, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) approved language in its model law requiring an additional 30 credit hours – roughly the equivalent of a master’s degree – for obtaining licensure as an Professional Engineer (PE), beginning in 2015.

Whereas, in 2008, NCEES extended its timeline for implementation of that requirement to 2020.

Whereas, initiatives related to these proposed licensure revisions are alternatively known as “bachelor’s-plus-30” (BS+30) or “master’s-or-equivalent” (MOE).

Whereas, the typical scope of an ABET-accredited bachelor’s degree has been shown time and again to accommodate technical breadth and flexibility and the intellectual skills necessary for engineering graduates to fulfill requirements necessary for PE licensure.

Whereas, the current system of examinations and supervision in practice are workable, effective, and adaptable, resulting in highly competent PEs.

Whereas, states license engineers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, but there is no concrete evidence to support the contention that additional education requirements demonstrate significant improvement in improving that protection.

Whereas, committing an additional year to obtain an extra 30 credits would be a significant deterrent for many interested and capable students who might otherwise pursue engineering degrees and careers.

Whereas, additional education requirements would likely result in a reduced supply of licensed engineers able to practice in a state, a lessening of that state’s technological competitiveness, and an increase in costs for engineering services.

Whereas, technological change is continuous and, as such, professionalism and continuing education throughout an engineering career are imperatives.

Whereas, ASHRAE will continue to develop educational programs that assure its members remain at the forefront of engineering practice and technologies.

Resolved, the ASHRAE Board of Directors opposes efforts to increase educational requirements for licensure as a Professional Engineer and encourages states and licensing boards to reject such proposals for the aforementioned reasons.