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ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

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The Honorable Members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 N. Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Re: House Bill 1060-FN “An act relative to the requirements for licensure as an engineer.”

Dear Chair Layon and Members of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including nearly 200 in New Hampshire, that focuses on the engineering of building systems, indoor air quality, sustainability, and resiliency. Through research, standards development, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today.

On behalf of our membership in New Hampshire, I wish to express opposition to HB 1060-FN. This legislation would eliminate key accountability measures that ensure an applicant has the necessary on-the-job experience to earn a Professional Engineer (PE) license. Specifically, it would eliminate requirements for applicants pursuing licensure under NH RSA 310-A:12 (II) that 10 years of engineering experience be both accumulated under the direction of a licensed professional engineer and be satisfactory to the state's Board of Professional Engineers. These are the only two mechanisms available in the law to formally assess an applicant's on-the-job experience.

Removing these requirements would unnecessarily risk public safety, threaten New Hampshire's built environment, and harm its professional engineering workforce. In addition, there exists with this professional oversight, the possibility that the public may be harmed by design and construction that fails to maintain an acceptable safe and healthy building's indoor environment.

Under current law there are three paths for an applicant to pursue a PE license, each requiring different levels of education and experience.¹ The different paths allow flexibility to attract applicants from a variety of backgrounds while maintaining rigorous standards. In each path, an applicant must demonstrate engineering experience that is “satisfactory to the board.” For applicants with fewer than 25 years of

¹ New Hampshire Revised Statutes, Chapter 310-A, Section 12 (RSA 310-A:12):
<https://www.gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/XXX/310-A/310-A-12.htm>

engineering experience, this experience must also be accumulated under the direction of a licensed professional engineer. These requirements – that experience is both satisfactory to the board and earned under the direction of a PE – work in conjunction to ensure accountability in the field. They are necessary to verify the quality and applicability of an applicant’s experience, and they safeguard against misrepresentation or exaggeration.

The best work of engineers often goes unnoticed, as high quality work simply performs well without incident. It is not newsworthy when road systems deliver drivers safely and quickly to their destination or when buildings are comfortable and healthy with clean air and water. However, these outcomes do not happen by accident. Complex systems like these, which keep people safe, healthy, and productive, are evidence of expert design and implementation by qualified engineers. Weakening the PE license would introduce risk into systems across the state. At worst, this risk could lead to serious infrastructure failures that put health and safety at risk.

As hurricanes, wildfires, floods, blizzards, and other extreme weather events continue to test the resilience of New Hampshire’s built environment, a high-quality building stock offers vital protection to the people who live and work in the state. Resilient, efficient, and high-functioning buildings and infrastructure rely on a highly qualified engineering workforce capable of understanding and implementing the latest technology and design practices.

Lastly, removing the board’s authority to assess an applicant’s work experience is at odds with widely accepted national standards. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), a national membership organization composed of engineering and surveying licensure boards in all U.S. states and territories, including New Hampshire, maintains a *Model Law* to offer guidance to lawmakers, improve the PE license, and simplify interstate transfer. The *Model Law* states that experience should be “of a grade and character that indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering.”² Removing such a requirement in New Hampshire would go against national best practice and could lead to license holders who are unqualified in many other states.

As a society principally composed of engineers and devoted to improving the principles and practices of engineering, ASHRAE supports reasonable policies intended to eliminate barriers to entry into and growth of the profession. However, growth cannot come at the expense of public safety or the future of New Hampshire’s built environment.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHRAE’s comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,



Bill McQuade
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² National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Model Law, Section 130.10 (Jan. 2024): https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Model_Law_January-2024_web.pdf