



Shaping Tomorrow's Global Built Environment Today

180 Technology Parkway, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 • Tel 404.636.8400 • www.ashrae.org

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026

Phone: (240) 761-5453
Email: bmcquade@baltimoreaircoil.com

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Robert Stivers
Senate Rules Committees
Kentucky State Capitol
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: House Bill 49 "AN ACT relating to professional engineering and land surveying scholarships."

Dear Chair Stivers:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. We are a professional and technical society of more than 55,000 members dedicated to workforce development, indoor air quality, and resiliency in the built environment. Through our Society's research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's global built environment today. As one of the premier subject matter experts on the built environment, and on behalf of our 398 members in the state of Kentucky, we wish to convey our support for KY HB 49. We also wish to draw your attention to a possible amendment, which we believe would strengthen this legislation and improve implementation.

KY HB 49 would create a scholarship fund for students who want to become Professional Engineers (PE) in Kentucky. The scholarship would be financed with fees and fines paid to the engineering licensure board, and by a \$5 fee for licensure renewal, making the scholarship budget neutral.

This legislation would help ensure that there is a pipeline of engineers being produced in Kentucky. Having young graduates ready to enter the field is critical to our future well-being and standard of living. Having an adequate number of Professional Engineers in Kentucky would help alleviate bottlenecks in construction that are caused by both a shortage of skilled trade labor, and a shortage of engineers trained in the building sciences. The existence of bottlenecks, both in STEM and in the trades, lengthens construction build times and increases costs.

We do wish to offer an amendment that we believe would improve the legislation and improve implementation. There is currently an accountability mechanism built into the legislation that says that anyone receiving the scholarship must obtain their Professional Engineer license within six years of graduation, or else the scholarship must be repaid to the state. To obtain a PE license, a new graduate with a Bachelor's degree must obtain four years of progressive engineering work experience. Subsequently, complying with the 6-year deadline would require a new graduate to obtain such employment within two years of graduation. We can easily imagine circumstances where a new graduate fails to meet the six year

deadline (e.g. military service, caring for an ailing family member), but is in their final of penultimate year of work that would qualify them for their PE license. We recommend that the language on page 3, section 5, of this legislation be amended to read:

Each recipient of a scholarship granted under Sections 1 to 4 of this Act shall agree in the written contract to:

- (a) Obtain a professional engineer or professional land surveyor license in Kentucky within six (6) years of graduation; **provided that a recipient who, at the expiration of the six (6) year period, has completed all examinations and is in the process of completing their work requirements, may be granted a reasonable extension, not to exceed three (3) years, as determined by the board; and***
- (b) Engage in the licensed practice of professional engineering or professional land surveying in Kentucky for at least one (1) year for each academic year the recipient received the scholarship.*

This small language change would maintain accountability but provide a grace period at the discretion of the board for graduates who are clearly on their way to obtaining their PE license.

We also wish to make ourselves available to you at any time if you find yourself in need of subject matter expertise in building sciences, engineering, and the built environment. We can be reached at GovAffairs@ashrae.org. On behalf of our 55,000 members worldwide and our nearly 400 members in Kentucky, thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McQuade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McQuade
ASHRAE Society President, 2025-2026