

Senate Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee

153rd General Assembly

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Senate Hearing Room/Virtual Meeting

1:00 p.m. – 1:22 p.m.

Senate Committee Recording <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00329/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20250515/246/5173>

Committee Members Present:

Senator Kyra Hoffner, Chair

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Senator Russell Huxtable, Vice-Chair

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Senator Nicole Poore

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Committee Members Absent:

Senator Brian Pettyjohn

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Senator Bryant Richardson

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Agenda

- I. **SB 125 (Poore): AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**
- II. **HB 81 (Gray): AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

Introduction

Senator Hoffner commenced the meeting and reviewed the hybrid meeting protocol. She explained the meeting structure and the order in which comments would be taken from the committee members and the members of the public. She conducted roll call, noting that Senator Richardson, and Senator Pettyjohn were absent

- I. **SB 125 (Poore): AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS [1:02:03]**

Synopsis: This Act updates the Board of Dietetics/Nutrition enabling act, requiring applicants to obtain a minimum of a master's degree to obtain a license. This change would make Delaware consistent with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR),

the credentialing agency of the American Dietetic Association. Beginning on January 1, 2024, CDR required a minimum of a master's degree in order to become registered. Under the current law, holders of a CDR registration are considered to automatically meet the qualifications for licensure in Delaware, and applicants who are certified by the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists must also acquire a minimum of a master's degree. This Act ensures Delaware is consistent with the current national standards for licensure and registration as a Dietitian or Nutritionist. Finally, the Act eliminates an outdated application provision. This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual

Senator Poore introduced SB 125, explaining that the bill came with support from the professional regulation board. She explains that the act proposes important updates that will align our state licensing standards with the current national requirements set by the Commission on Dietetic Registration. This act would require a minimum of a Master's degree for all those who graduate after January 1, 2024 that wish to practice dietetics.

Senator Poore invited questions and comments from the committee members. [1:04:09]

Senator Huxtable asked about the backdating of the graduation date to 2024.

Senator Poore explained that those who graduated before January 2024 are grandfathered in. She then invited Shawna Slaughter from Division of Professional Regulations to provide expert witness

Shawna Slaughter explained that this bill is going to bring the state in to regulation with what is already the national standard. There are 2 exams that can be taken to qualify for licensure and both exams require a master's degree. Every person who has taken either exam in the last 5 years is already in line with these regulations.

Senator Hoffner seeing no further questions or comments from committee members invited public comment [1:06:42]

No members of the public provided public comment

SB 125 was reported out of committee: 0 Favorable; 4 On Its Merits; 0 Unfavorable.

III. HB 81 (Gray): AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS. [1:07:54]

Synopsis:

This bill removes outdated references to permits. It further empowers the Council to designate those jurisdictions outside of the United States that will be recognized for certain types of applications based upon comity. The bill alters the section regarding discipline for examination violations because the examination is now administered in a computerized format. The bill modifies the process for the reporting of case decision

recommendations to the Council by its subordinate committees and clarifies that the Council may seek injunctive relief to enforce its cease-and-desist orders.

Representative Gray introduced HB 81, stating that the bill was brought to him by the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers. The purpose of the bill removes outdated references to permits, empowers the council to designate jurisdictions outside the US that would allow international engineers to become licensed in Delaware, and updates to reflect exams as they are provided via computers and modifies reporting of case decisions. Representative Gray invited Joe Jakubowski from the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers to be an expert witness.

Joe Jakubowski, current Civil Engineering Council chair for the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers. Summarized the four main sections of the bill as stated by Representative Gray. Section one deals with permitting, section two deals with foreign jurisdictions, section three deals with discipline for exam violations, and the fourth section deals with reporting violations in other states and enforcement related to cease and desist orders.

Senator Hoffner asked a question about the reciprocity of standards in regard to foreign engineers [1:12:45]

Joe Jakubowski clarified that the standards are set by the National Council for Engineering and Examining Standards recognizes engineers from other countries whose standards mirror ours. There is also an international board that does the same thing. Foreign engineers also have to apply for permits and have appropriate educations

Senator Hoffner noting no other committee questions invited public comment. [1:14:27]

No members of the public provided comments on this legislation

HB 81 was reported out of committee: 0 Favorable; 4 On Its Merits; 0 Unfavorable.

Senator Hoffner adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Madeline Campbell, Senate Majority, 6/11/25.

Staff:

Madeline Campbell, Senate Majority

Hannah Del Grande, Senate Majority

Appendix A: *Members of the public pre-registered for webinar and in-person sign-in sheet attendees.*

Joe Jakubowski, Delaware Association of Professional Engineers