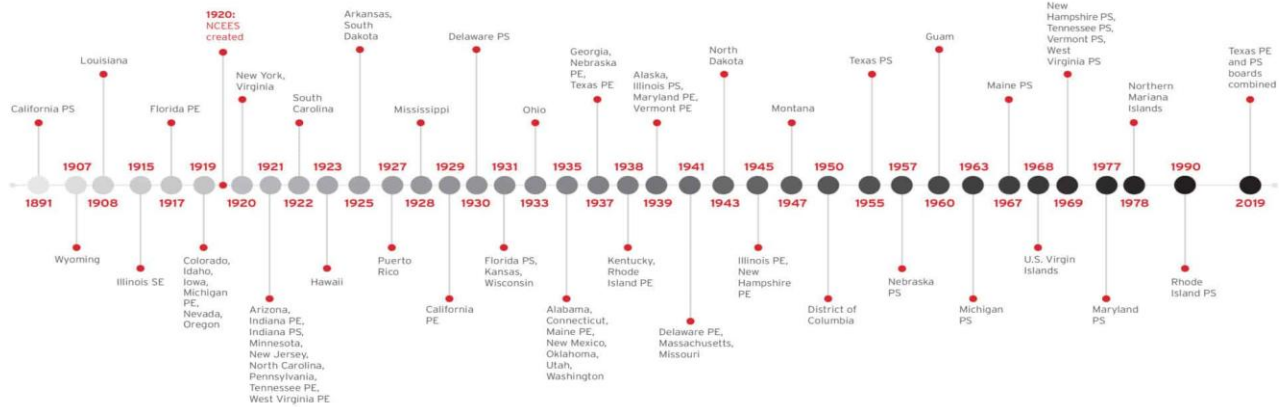


Surveying Licensure Protects Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

There is no question that occupational licensing has gone overboard in the United States. It is estimated that as much as 25 percent of the U.S. workforce is now subject to licensure. Many of the covered occupations have little or no impact on public health, welfare, and safety, and many state licensing arrangements do little more than create unnecessary barriers to entry and limit competition.

The design professions, including professional land surveying, however, do not fall in this category. The current movement to de-license occupations should exempt land surveying, along with architecture and engineering.



Whether it is a boundary survey for home ownership or engineering for an infrastructure project, surveying is essential. The quality and fidelity of the professional responsible for a survey has significant financial, environmental, safety, and quality of life implications. A survey is critical to every phase of an infrastructure project -- planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Just as a poorly designed dam can burst, resulting in loss of life, destruction of property, and serious litigation and liability claims, a poorly planned or executed survey can unleash a flood of problems, creating an impediment to the expeditious completion of a project, causing substantial loss of time and money, and jeopardizing the public safety. A high-quality survey or map will stand the test of time and will ensure that a project can proceed with its design, construction or resource planning project based on complete and precise groundwork. Surveying combines field measurements, the application of law and mathematics, and other knowledge, skills, and judgment. Professional licensing assures the public that a practitioner has met certain minimal qualifications to carry out a sound and reliable surveying service.

Licensing of professional surveyors is neither recent nor rare. All 50 states and the territories license surveyors. Licensing in surveying began in 1891. This demonstrates the longstanding importance of a system for assuring the public that practitioners have met the requisite education, experience, and examination to engage in professional practice.

In the 118th Congress, U.S. Representative John Joyce (R-PA) introduced [H.Con.Res.96](#) highlighting the important role continuation of the licensing of surveyors, architects, and engineers by the states plays in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. In the 119th Congress, Rep. Joyce will soon re-introduce the resolution.

ACTION REQUESTED:

NSPS respectfully urges members of the House to cosponsor the resolution by contacting Tyler Mortier with Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) at tyler.mortier@mail.house.gov or 5-2431. NSPS respectfully urges U.S. Senators to sponsor a companion “sense of the Congress” resolution highlighting the important role licensing of surveyors, architects, and engineers play in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. For more information, contact John “JB” Byrd, NSPS Federal Lobbyist, at jbyrd@mwcapitol.com or 703-383-1330.