

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS**

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**ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTICE ACT**

SECTIONS 61-23-1 THROUGH 61-23-36 NMSA 1978



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## ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING PRACTICE ACT

**61-23-1. SHORT TITLE.** -- Chapter 61, Article 23 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Engineering and Surveying Practice Act".

### **61-23-1.1 Repealed**

### **61-23-2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

The legislature declares that it is a matter of public safety, interest and concern that the practices of engineering and surveying merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified persons be permitted to engage in the practices of engineering and surveying. In order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, any person in either public or private capacity practicing or offering to practice engineering or surveying shall be required to submit evidence that the person is qualified to so practice and shall be licensed as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. It is unlawful for any person to practice, offer to practice, engage in the business, act in the capacity of, advertise or use in connection with the person's name or otherwise assume, use or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that the person is a professional, licensed engineer or surveyor unless that person is licensed or exempt under the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [Chapter 61, Article 23 NMSA 1978]. A person who engages in the business or acts in the capacity of an engineer or surveyor in New Mexico, except as otherwise provided in Sections 61-23-22 and 61-23-27.10 NMSA 1978, with or without a New Mexico license, has thereby submitted to the jurisdiction of the state and to the administrative jurisdiction of the board and is subject to all penalties and remedies available for a violation of any provision of Chapter 61, Article 23 NMSA 1978. The practice of engineering or surveying shall be deemed a privilege granted by the board based on the qualifications of the individual as evidenced by the licensee's certificate, which shall not be transferable.

### **61-23-3. DEFINITIONS.**

As used in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act:

- A.** "approved" or "approval" means acceptable to the board;
- B.** "authorized company officer" means an employee of a business entity duly authorized by the business entity to contractually obligate the business entity;
- C.** "board" means the state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors;
- D.** "business entity" means a corporation, professional corporation, limited liability corporation, professional limited liability corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, professional limited liability partnership, a joint stock association or any other form of business, whether or not for profit;
- E.** "conviction" or "convicted" means a final adjudication of guilt, whether pursuant to a plea of nolo contendere or otherwise and whether or not the sentence is deferred or suspended;
- F.** "engineer", "professional engineer", "consulting engineer", "licensed engineer" or "registered engineer" means a person who is qualified to practice engineering by reason of the person's intensive preparation and knowledge in the use of mathematics, chemistry, physics and engineering sciences, including the principles and methods of engineering analysis and design acquired by professional education and engineering experience and who is licensed by the board to practice engineering;
- G.** "engineering accreditation commission", means the engineering accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology, incorporated, or any successor commission or organization;
- H.** "engineering", "practice of engineering" or "engineering practice" means any creative or engineering work that requires engineering education, training and experience in the application of special knowledge of the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences to such creative work as consultation, investigation, forensic investigation, evaluation, planning and design of engineering works and systems, expert technical testimony, engineering studies and the review of construction for the purpose of assuring substantial compliance with drawings and specifications; any of which embrace such creative work, either public or private, in connection with any utilities, structures, buildings, machines, equipment, processes, work systems, projects and industrial or consumer products or equipment of a mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, chemical, pneumatic, environmental or thermal nature, insofar as they involve safeguarding life, health or property, and including such other

professional services as may be necessary to the planning, progress and completion of any engineering work. The "practice of engineering" may include the use of photogrammetric methods to derive topographical and other data. The "practice of engineering" does not include responsibility for the supervision of construction, site conditions, operations, equipment, personnel or the maintenance of safety in the work place;

**I.** "engineering committee" means a committee of the board entrusted to implement all business of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as it pertains to the practice of engineering, including the promulgation and adoption of rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers exclusive to the practice of engineering;

**J.** "engineer intern" means a person who has qualified for, taken and passed an examination in the fundamental engineering subjects as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;

**K.** "fund" means the professional engineers' and surveyors' fund;

**L.** "incidental practice" means the performance of other professional services that are related to a licensee's work as an engineer;

**M.** "person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture or a legal or commercial entity;

**N.** "professional development" means education by a licensee in order to maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure or to develop new and relevant skills and knowledge to maintain licensure;

**O.** "responsible charge" means responsibility for the direction, control and supervision of engineering or surveying work, as the case may be, to assure that the work product has been critically examined and evaluated for compliance with appropriate professional standards by a licensee in that profession, and by sealing or signing the documents, the professional engineer or professional surveyor accepts responsibility for the engineering or surveying work, respectively, represented by the documents and that applicable engineering or surveying standards have been met;

**P.** "surveying", "practice of surveying" or "surveying practice" means any service or work, the substantial performance of which involves the application of the principles of mathematics and the related physical and applied sciences for:

(1) the measuring and locating of lines, angles, elevations and natural and man-made features in the air, on the surface of the earth, within underground workings and on the beds or bodies of water for the purpose of defining location, areas and volumes;

(2) the monumenting of property boundaries and for the platting and layout of lands and subdivisions;

(3) the application of photogrammetric methods used to derive topographic and other data;

(4) the establishment of horizontal and vertical controls that will be the basis for all geospatial data used for future design surveys, including construction staking surveys, surveys to lay out horizontal and vertical alignments, topographic surveys, control surveys for aerial photography for the collection of topographic and planimetric data using photogrammetric methods and construction surveys of engineering and architectural public works projects;

(5) the preparation and perpetuation of maps, records, plats, field notes, easements and property descriptions; and

(6) the depiction and transmittal by paper or digital means of any digital geospatial data for use in geographic information systems or land information systems that purports to be the authoritative location of points or features of a survey regulated by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, but excludes data used solely for a cadastre, such as assessment and tax mapping purposes, or general representations of surveyed or historic data used for mapping purposes, such as land parcels and built infrastructure;

**Q.** "surveying committee" means a committee of the board entrusted to implement all business of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as it pertains to the practice of surveying, including the promulgation and adoption of rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors exclusive to the practice of surveying;

**R.** "surveyor", "professional surveyor", "licensed surveyor" or "registered surveyor" means a person who is qualified to practice surveying by reason of the person's intensive preparation and knowledge in the use of mathematics, physical and applied sciences and surveying, including the principles and methods of surveying acquired by education and experience, and who is licensed by the board to practice surveying;

- S. "surveyor intern" means a person who has qualified for, taken and passed an examination in the fundamentals of surveying subjects as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
- T. "surveying work" means the work performed in the practice of surveying; and
- U. "supplemental surveying work" means surveying work performed in order to densify, augment and enhance previously performed survey work or site information but excludes the surveying of real property for the establishment of land boundaries, rights of way and easements and the dependent or independent surveys or resurveys of the public land system.

#### **61-23-4. CRIMINAL OFFENDER'S CHARACTER EVALUATION.**

The provisions of the Criminal Offender Employment Act [28-2-1 to 28-2-6 NMSA 1978] shall govern any consideration of criminal records required or permitted by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

#### **61-23-5. STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS -- MEMBERS -- TERMS.**

**A.** There is created the "state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors" that shall consist of five licensed professional engineers, at least one of whom shall be in engineering education, three licensed professional surveyors and two public members.

**B.** The members of the board shall be appointed by the governor for staggered terms of five years. The appointees shall have the qualifications required by Section 61-23-6 NMSA 1978. The appointments shall be made in such a manner that the terms of not more than two members expire in each year. Each member of the board shall receive a certificate of appointment from the governor. Before the beginning of the term of office, the appointee shall file with the secretary of state a written oath or affirmation for the faithful discharge of official duty. A member of the board may be reappointed but may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. A member shall not be reappointed to the board for at least two years after serving two consecutive full terms. The board may designate any former board member to assist it in an advisory capacity.

**C.** Each member may hold office until the expiration of the term for which appointed or until a successor has been duly qualified and appointed. In the event of a vacancy for any cause that results in an unexpired term, if not filled within three months by official action, the board may appoint a provisional member to serve until the governor acts. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the balance of the unexpired term.

#### **61-23-6. BOARD MEMBERS -- QUALIFICATIONS.**

**A.** Each engineer member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Mexico. Each shall have been engaged in the lawful practice of engineering as a professional engineer for at least ten years, including responsible charge of engineering projects for at least five years as a professional engineer licensed in New Mexico, or engaged in engineering education for at least ten years, including responsible charge of engineering education for at least five years, and shall be a professional engineer licensed in New Mexico.

**B.** Each surveyor member of the board shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of New Mexico. Each shall have been engaged in the lawful practice of surveying as a professional surveyor for at least ten years, including responsible charge of surveying projects for at least five years as a professional surveyor licensed in New Mexico.

**C.** Each public member shall be a citizen of the United States, a resident of New Mexico, shall not have been licensed nor be qualified for licensure as an engineer, surveyor, architect or landscape architect and shall not have any significant financial interest, direct or indirect, in the professions regulated.

#### **61-23-7. REIMBURSEMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS.**

Each member of the board shall receive per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage Act [10-8-1 to 10-8-8 NMSA 1978] and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or allowance.

#### **61-23-8. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF BOARD.**

The governor may remove, after notice and hearing, any member of the board for misconduct, incompetency, neglect of duty, malfeasance in office or for any reason prescribed by law for removal of state officials.

### **61-23-9. BOARD -- ORGANIZATION -- MEETINGS.**

**A.** There shall be an "engineering committee" composed of the five members of the board who serve as licensed professional engineers and one of the public members, who shall be appointed to the committee by the board. The engineering committee shall meet in conjunction with all board meetings. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide a procedure for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special and emergency meetings. A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the committee. In the event of a lack of a quorum and at the request of the committee, other board members may be substituted for a non-attending member in order to have a quorum. The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from the committee members at the last committee meeting prior to July 1 of each year.

**B.** There shall be a "surveying committee" composed of the three members of the board who serve as licensed professional surveyors and one of the public members, who shall be appointed to the committee by the board. The surveying committee shall meet in conjunction with all board meetings. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide a procedure for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special and emergency meetings. A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the committee. In the event of a lack of a quorum and at the request of the committee, other board members may serve on this committee. The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair from the committee members at the last committee meeting prior to July 1 of each year.

**C.** All matters that come before the board that pertain exclusively to engineering or exclusively to surveying shall be referred to the respective committee for disposition. The committee action on such matters shall be the action of the board. Committee actions shall be reported to the board.

**D.** There shall be a joint engineering and surveying standing committee of the board composed of two members from the professional engineering committee, the public member and the chair, and two members from the professional surveying committee, the public member and the chair. If the public member is currently the chair of either committee, the vice chair will serve as the professional member on the standing committee.

**E.** The board shall hold at least four regular meetings each year. At least one meeting shall be held at the state capitol. The bylaws or rules of the board shall provide procedures for giving notice of all meetings and for holding special meetings. The board shall elect annually a chair, a vice chair and a secretary, who shall be members of the board. A member of the board shall not be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive years. A quorum of the board shall be a majority of the board. Any board member failing to attend three consecutive regular meetings is automatically removed as a member of the board. The board shall have an official seal.

### **61-23-10. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD.**

**A.** It shall be the duty of the board to administer the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978] and to exercise the authority granted the board in that act. The board is the sole state agency with the power to certify the qualifications of professional engineers and professional surveyors. The board is authorized to engage such personnel, including an executive director, as it may deem necessary.

**B.** The board shall have the power to adopt and amend all bylaws and rules of procedure consistent with the constitution and the laws of this state that may be reasonable for the proper performance of its duties and the regulation of its procedures, meeting records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The board shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers and professional surveyors that are not exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**C.** The professional engineering committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of engineering. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**D.** The professional surveying committee shall adopt and promulgate rules of professional responsibility exclusive to the practice of surveying. All such bylaws and rules shall be binding upon all persons licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**E.** The joint engineering and surveying standing committee shall have the exclusive authority over practice disputes between engineers and surveyors to determine if any proposed rules of professional responsibility are



exclusive to the practice of engineering or exclusive to the practice of surveying so that rulemaking authority is delegated to the engineering committee or to the surveying committee. Determination of exclusive practice of engineering or surveying requires an affirmative vote by no less than three members of the committee. If an affirmative vote of three members cannot be achieved, the determination of exclusivity shall be made by the full board.

**F.** To effect the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, the board may, under the chair's hand and the board's seal, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books, papers and documents in any disciplinary action against a licensee or a person practicing or offering to practice without licensure. Any member of the board may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the board. If any person refuses to obey any subpoena so issued or refuses to testify or produce any books, papers or documents, the board may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for an order to compel the requisite action. If any person willfully fails to comply with such an order, that person may be held in contempt of court.

**G.** The board may apply for injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or to restrain any violation of that act. The members of the board shall not be personally liable under this proceeding.

**H.** The board may subject an applicant for licensure to such examinations as it deems necessary to determine the applicant's qualifications.

**I.** The board shall create enforcement advisory committees composed of licensees as necessary. Each committee shall include at least four licensees in the same category as the respondent. An engineering enforcement advisory committee shall have at least one licensee in the same branch as the respondent. Enforcement advisory committees shall provide technical assistance to the board and its staff. The board shall select members from a list of volunteers submitting their resumes and letters of interest.

**J.** No action or other legal proceedings for damages shall be instituted against the board, any board member or an agent, an employee or a member of an advisory committee of the board for any act done in good faith and in the intended performance of any power or duty granted pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or for any neglect or default in the good faith performance or exercise of any such power or duty.

**K.** The board, in cooperation with the board of examiners for architects and the board of landscape architects, shall create a joint standing committee to be known as the "joint practice committee". In order to safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, the committee shall have as its purpose the promotion and development of the highest professional standards in design, planning and construction and the resolution of ambiguities concerning the professions. The composition of the committee and its powers and duties shall be in accordance with identical resolutions adopted by each board.

**L.** As used in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, "incidental practice" shall be defined by identical rules of the board and the board of examiners for architects.

#### **61-23-11. RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENT-- FUND CREATED.**

**A.** The "professional engineers' and surveyors' fund" is created in the state treasury. The executive director of the board shall receive and account for all money received under the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978] and shall pay that money to the state treasurer for deposit in the fund. Money in this fund shall be paid out only by warrant of the secretary of finance and administration upon the state treasurer, upon itemized vouchers approved by the chair and attested by the executive director of the board. All money in the fund is appropriated for the use of the board. Earnings from investment of the fund shall accrue to the credit of the fund.

**B.** The executive director of the board shall give a surety bond to the state in such sum as the board may determine. The premium on the bond shall be regarded as a proper and necessary expense of the board and shall be paid out of the fund.

**C.** The board may make expenditures of the fund for any purpose that in the opinion of the board is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, including the expenses of the board's delegates to the conventions of, and for membership dues to, the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and any of its subdivisions or any other body of similar purpose.

### **61-23-12. RECORDS AND REPORTS.**

**A.** The board shall keep a record of its proceedings and a register of all applications for licensure, indicating the name, age and residence of each applicant, the applicant's educational and other qualifications, whether an examination was required, whether the applicant was rejected, whether a certificate of licensure was granted, the date of the action of the board and such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board. The record and register shall be open to public inspection.

**B.** The following board records and papers are of a confidential nature and are not public records:

- (1) examination material for examinations not yet given;
- (2) file records of examination problem solutions;
- (3) letters of inquiry and reference concerning applicants;
- (4) board inquiry forms concerning applicants;
- (5) investigation files where any investigation is ongoing or is still pending; and
- (6) all other materials of like confidential nature.

**C.** The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board set forth in those records, and a transcript thereof, duly certified by the secretary of the board under seal, shall be admissible in evidence with the same effect as if the original were produced.

**D.** Annually, on or before August 30, the board shall submit to the governor a report of its transactions of the preceding year, accompanied by a complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the board attested by affidavits of the board's chair, secretary and executive director.

### **61-23-13. ROSTER OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS.**

A roster showing the names and addresses of all licensed professional engineers and professional surveyors shall be maintained by the board and shall be placed on file with the state commission of public records and made available to the public.

#### **61-23-13.1 Repealed.**

### **61-23-14. CERTIFICATION AS AN ENGINEER INTERN -- REQUIREMENTS.**

**A.** An applicant for certification as an engineer intern shall file the appropriate application that demonstrates that the applicant:

- (1) is of good moral character and reputation;
- (2) has obtained at least a senior status in a board-approved, four-year curriculum in engineering or in a board-approved, four-year curriculum in engineering technology that is accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology; and
- (3) has three references, one of whom shall be a licensed professional engineer.

**B.** After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for certification as an engineer intern.

**C.** An applicant may be certified as an engineer intern upon successfully completing the examination, provided that the applicant has:

- (1) graduated from a board-approved, four-year engineering curriculum; or
- (2) graduated from a board-approved, four-year engineering technology program accredited by the technical accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology, augmented by at least two years of board-approved, post-graduate engineering experience.

**D.** The certification as engineer intern does not permit the intern to practice as a professional engineer. Certification as an engineer intern is intended to demonstrate that the intern has obtained certain skills in engineering fundamentals and is pursuing a career in engineering.

#### **61-23-14.1. LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER; REQUIREMENTS.**

**A.** Licensure as a professional engineer may be either through examination or through endorsement or comity. In either case, an applicant shall file the appropriate application in which it shall be demonstrated that the applicant:

(1) is of good moral character and reputation; and  
(2) has five references, three of whom shall be licensees practicing in the branch of engineering for which the applicant is applying and who have personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience and reputation. The use of non-licensed engineer references having personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience and reputation may be accepted by the board; provided that a satisfactory written explanation is given.

**B.** An applicant may be licensed through examination if the applicant can demonstrate the following:

(1) the applicant is certified as an engineer intern and has at least one of the following:

(a) received a bachelor's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a program accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or a program that fulfills the required content of the engineering education standard as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has at least four years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree;

(b) received a bachelor's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a foreign educational institution where the program that was completed fulfills the required content of the engineering education standard as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has at least four years engineering experience in the United States subsequent to receiving the degree;

(c) received a master's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a program accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or an institution that offers programs accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or that fulfills the required content of the engineering education standard as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has at least three years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree;

(d) received a master's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a foreign educational institution where the program that was completed fulfills through evaluation the required curricular content and educational standards as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has at least three years engineering experience in the United States subsequent to receiving the degree;

(e) received a doctorate degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a board-approved engineering curriculum and has at least two years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree; or

(f) at least six years of board-approved engineering experience after graduation from a school offering a board-approved, four-year engineering technology curriculum accredited by the technology accreditation commission of the accreditation board for engineering and technology, including the two years for engineer intern certification; or

(2) the applicant is not certified as an engineer intern and has at least one of the following:

(a) received a bachelor's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a program accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or a program that fulfills the required content of the engineering education standard as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has twelve years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree;

(b) received a master's degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a program accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or an institution that offers programs accredited by the engineering accreditation commission or that fulfills the required content of the engineering education standard as defined by the national council of examiners for engineering and surveying and has at least six years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree; or

(c) received a doctorate degree in an engineering discipline recognized by the board from a board-approved engineering curriculum and has at least four years of engineering experience subsequent to receiving the degree.

**C.** Upon successfully completing the examination, required experience and all the requirements as noted in this section, the applicant shall be eligible to be licensed as a professional engineer upon action of the board.

**D.** An applicant may be licensed by endorsement or comity if the applicant:

(1) is currently licensed as an engineer in the District of Columbia, another state, a territory or a possession of the United States; provided the licensure does not conflict with the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and that the standards required by the licensure or the applicant's qualifications equaled or exceeded the licensure standards in New Mexico at the time the applicant was initially licensed; or

(2) is currently licensed as an engineer in a foreign country and can demonstrate, to the board's satisfaction, evidence that the licensure was based on standards that equal or exceed those currently required for licensure by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and can satisfactorily demonstrate to the board competence in current engineering standards and procedures.

(3) is currently licensed as an engineer in the District of Columbia, another state, a territory or a possession of the United States; provided that the applicant:

(a) has been actively licensed for the contiguous ten years immediately preceding application to New Mexico;

(b) has not received any form of disciplinary action related to the practice of engineering or professional conduct from any jurisdiction within the five years preceding application to New Mexico; and

(c) has not had the applicant's professional license suspended or revoked at any time from any jurisdiction.

**61-23-15., 61-23-16. Repealed.**

**61-23-17. APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES.**

A. All applicants for licensure pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall apply for examination, licensure or certification on forms prescribed and furnished by the board. Applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, any sworn statements the board may require to show the applicant's citizenship and education, a detailed summary of the applicant's technical work and appropriate references.

B. All application, reapplication, examination and reexamination fees shall be set by the board and shall not exceed the actual cost of carrying out the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No fees shall be refundable.

C. Any application may be denied for fraud, deceit, conviction of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude.

**61-23-17.1 Repealed.**

**61-23-18. ENGINEERING -- EXAMINATIONS.**

The examinations for engineering certification and licensure shall be held at least once a year at a time and place the board directs. The engineering committee shall determine the passing grade on examinations.

**61-23-19. ENGINEERING -- LICENSES -- SEALS -- INCIDENTAL ARCHITECTURAL WORK -- SUPPLEMENTAL SURVEYING WORK.**

A. The board shall issue licenses pursuant to the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. The board shall provide for the proper authentication of all documents.

B. The board shall regulate the use of seals and may approve alternative authentications to physical or electronic seals.

C. An engineer shall have the right to engage in activities properly classified as architecture insofar as it is incidental to the engineer's work as an engineer; provided that the engineer shall not make any representation as being an architect or as performing architectural services unless duly registered as such.

D. The board shall recognize that there may be occasions when professional engineers need to obtain supplemental survey information for the planning and design of an engineering project. A professional engineer who has primary engineering responsibility and control of an engineering project may perform supplemental surveying work in obtaining data incidental to that project. Supplemental surveying work may be performed by a professional engineer only on a project for which the engineer is providing engineering design services.

**61-23-20. ENGINEERING -- LICENSURE AND RENEWAL FEES -- EXPIRATIONS.**

A. Licensure shall be for a period of two years as prescribed in the rules of procedure. Initial licenses shall be issued in accordance with the board's rules.

B. The board shall establish by rule a biennial fee for professional engineers. Licensure renewal is accomplished upon payment of the required fee and satisfactory completion of the requirements of professional development.

C. The executive director of the board shall send a renewal notice to each licensee's last known address. Notice shall be mailed at least one month in advance of the date of expiration of the license.

**D.** Each licensee shall have the responsibility to notify the board of any change of address within thirty days of the change.

**E.** Upon receipt of a renewal fee and fulfillment of other requirements, the board shall issue a licensure renewal card that shall show the name and license number of the licensee and shall state that the person named has been granted licensure to practice as a professional engineer for the biennial period.

**F.** Every license shall automatically expire if not renewed on or before December 31 of the applicable biennial period. A delinquent licensee may renew a license by the payment of twice the biennial renewal fee at any time before March 1, but the delinquent licensee shall not practice during this period. Should the licensee apply to renew an expired license after the March 1 deadline has elapsed, the licensee shall submit a formal application and fee as provided in Section 61-23-17 NMSA 1978. The board, in considering the reapplication, may consider the applicant's qualifications for licensure if the requirements for licensure have changed since the applicant was first licensed. The board may adopt rules for inactive and retired status.

#### **61-23-21. PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING.**

**A.** No business entity shall be licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No business entity shall practice or offer to practice engineering in the state except as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**B.** Professional engineers may engage in the practice of engineering and perform engineering work pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act as individuals or through a business entity. In the case of an individual, the individual shall be a professional engineer pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. All plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in such practice, or that are issued by or for the practice, shall bear the seal and signature of the professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work issued. In the case of practice through a business entity that is a partnership, at least one of the partners shall be a professional engineer pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, and all plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in such practice, or that are issued by or for the partnership, shall bear the seal and signature of the professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for such work when issued. In the case of practice through a business entity other than a partnership, services or work involving the practice of engineering may be offered through that business entity; provided that the person in responsible charge of the activities of the business entity that constitute engineering practice is a professional engineer who has authority to bind such business entity by contract; and further provided that all plans, designs, drawings, specifications or reports that are involved in engineering practice, or that are issued by or for such business entity, bear the seal and signature of a professional engineer in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work when issued.

**C.** An individual or business entity may not use or assume a name involving the terms "engineer", "professional engineer", "engineering", "registered" or "licensed" engineer or any modification or derivative of such terms unless that individual or business entity is qualified to practice engineering in accordance with the requirements of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**D.** In the case of practice through a business entity offering or providing services or work involving the practice of engineering, an authorized company officer and the professional engineer who is employed by the business entity and in responsible charge shall place on file with the board a signed affidavit, as prescribed by board rule. The affidavit shall be kept current, and, if there is any change in the professional engineer or authorized company officer, the affidavit shall be promptly revised and resubmitted to the board.

#### **61-23-22. ENGINEERING -- EXEMPTIONS.**

**A.** A New Mexico licensed architect who has complied with all of the laws of New Mexico relating to the practice of architecture has the right to engage in the incidental practice, as defined by regulation, of activities properly classified as engineering; provided that the architect shall not make any representation as being an engineer or as performing engineering services; and further provided that the architect shall perform only that part of the work for which the architect is professionally qualified and shall use qualified professional engineers or others for those portions of the work in which the contracting architect is not qualified. Furthermore, the architect shall

assume all responsibility for compliance with all laws, codes, regulations and ordinances of the state or its political subdivisions pertaining to all documents bearing the architect's professional seal.

**B.** An engineer employed by a business entity who performs only the engineering services involved in the operation of the business entity's business shall be exempt from the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act; provided that neither the employee nor the business entity offers engineering services to the public. Performance of engineering on public works projects pursuant to Section 61-23-26 NMSA 1978 constitutes engineering services to the public and is not exempt.

#### **61-23-23. Repealed.**

#### **61-23-23.1 AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE -- CIVIL PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED PERSONS -- ENGINEERING.**

**A.** The board may investigate and initiate a hearing on a complaint against a person who does not have a license, who is not exempt from the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act and who acts in the capacity of a professional engineer within the meaning of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. A valid license is required for a person to act as a professional engineer or to solicit or propose to perform work involving the practice of engineering

**B.** If after the hearing the board determines that based on the evidence the person committed a violation pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act, it shall, in addition to any other sanction, action or remedy, issue an order that imposes a civil penalty up to seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per violation.

**C.** In determining the amount of the civil penalty it imposes, the board shall consider:

- (1) the seriousness of the violation;
- (2) the economic benefit to the violator that was generated by the violator's commission of the violation;
- (3) the violator's history of violations; and
- (4) any other considerations the board deems appropriate.

**D.** A person aggrieved by the board's decision may appeal a decision made or an order issued pursuant to Subsection B of this section to the district court pursuant to Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978.

**E.** Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor, and upon conviction the person shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Conviction shall be grounds for further action against the person by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief, including a petition for injunction.

#### **61-23-24. ENGINEERING -- VIOLATIONS -- DISCIPLINARY ACTION -- PENALTIES -- REISSUANCE OF LICENSES.**

**A.** The board may suspend, refuse to renew or revoke a license, impose a fine not to exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500), place on probation for a specific period of time with specific conditions or reprimand any professional engineer who is found by the board to have:

- (1) practiced or offered to practice engineering in New Mexico in violation of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
- (2) attempted to use the license of another;
- (3) given false or forged evidence to the board or to a board member for obtaining a license;
- (4) falsely impersonated any other licensee of like or different name;
- (5) attempted to use an expired, suspended or revoked license;
- (6) falsely purported to be a professional engineer by claim, sign, advertisement or letterhead;
- (7) violated the rules of professional responsibility for professional engineers adopted and promulgated by the board;
- (8) been disciplined in another state for action that would constitute a violation of either or both the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board;
- (9) been convicted of a felony; or
- (10) procured, aided or abetted any violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules of the board.

**B.** Except as provided in Subsection C of Section 61-23-21 NMSA 1978, nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall prohibit the general use of the word "engineer", "engineered" or "engineering" so long as such words are not used in an offer to the public to perform engineering work as defined in Subsections F and H of Section 61-23-3 NMSA 1978.

**C.** The board may by rule establish the guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving specific types of violations. The guidelines may include minimum and maximum fines, periods of probation or conditions of probation or reissuance of a license.

**D.** Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act [Chapter 61, Article 1 NMSA 1978] is a misdemeanor and shall be grounds for further action against the licensee by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief.

**E.** A person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct against a licensed professional engineer. The charges shall be in writing and shall be sworn to by the person making the charges and filed with the executive director of the board. All charges shall be referred to the engineering committee, acting for the board. No action that would have any of the effects specified in Subsection D, E or F of Section 61-1-3 NMSA 1978 may be initiated later than two years after the discovery by the board, but in no case shall an action be brought more than ten years after the completion of the conduct that constitutes the basis for the action. All charges, unless dismissed as unfounded, trivial, resolved by reprimand or settled informally, shall be heard in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act by the engineering committee acting for the board or by the board.

**F.** Persons making charges shall not be subject to civil or criminal suits; provided that the charges are made in good faith and are not frivolous or malicious.

**G.** The board or a board member may initiate proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this section in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act. Nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall deny the right of appeal from the decision and order of the board in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.

**H.** The board, for reasons it deems sufficient, may reissue a license to a person whose license has been revoked or suspended; provided that a majority of the members of the engineering committee, acting for the board, or of the board votes in favor of the reissuance. A new license bearing the original license number to replace a revoked, lost, destroyed or mutilated license may be issued subject to the rules of the board with payment of a fee.

**I.** A violation of any provision of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) or by imprisonment of no more than one year, or both.

**J.** The attorney general or district attorney of the proper district or special prosecutor retained by the board shall prosecute violations of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act by a nonlicensee.

**K.** The practice of engineering in violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall be deemed a nuisance and may be restrained and abated by injunction without bond in an action brought in the name of the state by the district attorney or on behalf of the board by the attorney general or the special prosecutor retained by the board. Action shall be brought in the county where the violation occurs.

#### **61-23-24.1. ENGINEERING -- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

The board shall implement and conduct a professional development program. Compliance and exceptions shall be established by the regulations and rules of procedure of the board.

#### **61-23-25. Repealed.**

#### **61-23-26. ENGINEERING -- PUBLIC WORK.**

It is unlawful for the state or any of its political subdivisions or any person to engage in the construction of any public work involving engineering unless the engineering is under the responsible charge of a licensed professional engineer.

#### **61-23-27. ENGINEERING -- PUBLIC OFFICER -- LICENSURE REQUIRED.**

No person except a licensed professional engineer shall be eligible to hold any responsible office or position for the state or any political subdivision of the state that includes the performance or responsible charge of engineering work.

**61-23-27.1, 61-23-27.2. Repealed.**

**61-23-27.3. CERTIFICATION OF SURVEYOR INTERN -- REQUIREMENTS.**

**A.** An applicant for certification as a surveyor intern shall file the appropriate application and demonstrate that the applicant:

(1) is of good moral character and reputation;

(2) has obtained at least a senior status in a board-approved four-year curriculum in surveying; and

(3) has three references, two of whom shall be licensed professional surveyors having personal knowledge of the applicant's knowledge and experience.

**B.** After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for certification as a surveyor intern.

**C.** Upon successfully completing the examination and an approved four-year surveying curriculum, then by action of the board, the applicant may be certified as a surveyor intern.

**D.** The certification of surveyor intern does not permit the intern to practice surveying. Certification as a surveyor intern is intended to demonstrate that the intern has obtained certain skills in surveying fundamentals and is pursuing a career in surveying.

**E.** If otherwise qualified, a graduate of a board-approved but related curriculum of at least four years, to be considered for certification as a surveyor intern, shall have a specific record of two years of combined office and field board-approved surveying experience obtained under the direction of a licensed professional surveyor. Class time will not be counted in the two years of required experience, but work prior to or while attending school may be counted toward the four years of required experience at the discretion of the board.

**61-23-27.4. LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR -- GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

**A.** Licensure as a professional surveyor may be either through examination or through endorsement or comity. In either case, an applicant shall file the appropriate application to demonstrate that the applicant:

(1) is of good moral character and reputation;

(2) is certified as a surveyor intern;

(3) has at least four years of board-approved surveying experience if graduated from a four-year, board-approved surveying curriculum as defined by board rule;

(4) has five references, three of which shall be from licensed professional surveyors having personal knowledge of the applicant's surveying experience; and

(5) if graduated from a board-approved, four-year related science curriculum as specifically defined by board rules, has a minimum of four years of board-approved surveying experience subsequent to certification as a surveyor intern.

**B.** The applicant's experience pursuant to Paragraphs (3) and (5) of Subsection A of this section shall, at a minimum, include three years of increasingly responsible experience in boundary surveying and four years of increasingly responsible experience under the direct supervision of a licensed professional surveyor.

**C.** After acceptance of the application by the board, the applicant shall be allowed to take the appropriate examination for licensure as a professional surveyor.

**D.** Upon successfully completing the examination, the applicant shall be eligible to be licensed as a professional surveyor upon action of the board.

**E.** If otherwise qualified, an applicant may be licensed if the applicant is currently licensed as a professional surveyor in:

(1) the District of Columbia, another state, a territory or a possession of the United States, provided that:

(a) licensure does not conflict with the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978] and that the standards required for licensure and the applicant's qualifications equaled or exceeded the licensure standards in New Mexico at the time the applicant was initially licensed; and



- (b) the applicant has passed examinations the board deems necessary to determine the applicant's qualifications, including a written examination that includes questions on laws, procedures and practices pertaining to surveying in this state; or
- (2) a foreign country and can demonstrate to the board's satisfaction:
  - (a) evidence that the licensure was based on standards that equal or exceed those currently required for licensure by the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act; and
  - (b) competence in current surveying standards and procedures by passing examinations the board deems necessary to determine the applicant's qualification, including a written examination that includes questions on laws, procedures and practices pertaining to surveying in New Mexico.

#### **61-23-27.5. SURVEYING -- APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION FEES.**

- A.** All applicants for licensure pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [this article] shall apply for examination, licensure or certification on forms prescribed and furnished by the board. Applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee, any sworn statements the board may require to show the applicant's citizenship and education, a detailed summary of the applicant's technical work and appropriate references.
- B.** All application, reapplication, examination and reexamination fees shall be set by the board and shall not exceed the actual cost of carrying out the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. Fees shall not be refundable.
- C.** Any application may be denied for fraud, deceit, conviction of a felony or for any crime involving moral turpitude.

#### **61-23-27.6. SURVEYING -- EXAMINATIONS.**

The examinations for surveying certification and licensure shall be held at least once a year at a time and place the board directs. The surveying committee shall determine the passing grade on examinations.

#### **61-23-27.7. SURVEYING -- LICENSURE AND RENEWAL FEES -- EXPIRATIONS.**

- A.** Licensure for surveyors shall be for a period of two years as prescribed in the rules of procedure. Initial certificates of licensure shall be issued to coincide with the biennial period. Initial licenses shall be issued in accordance with the board's rules.
- B.** The board shall establish by rule a biennial fee for professional surveyors. Renewal shall be granted upon payment of the required fee and satisfactory completion of the requirements of professional development.
- C.** The executive director of the board shall send a renewal notice to each licensee's last known address. Notice shall be mailed at least one month in advance of the date of expiration of the license.
- D.** It shall be the responsibility of the licensee to notify the board of any change of address and to keep the license current.
- E.** Upon receipt of a renewal fee and fulfillment of other requirements, the board shall issue a licensure renewal card that shall show the name and license number of the licensee and shall state that the person named has been granted licensure to practice as a professional surveyor for the biennial period.
- F.** Every license shall automatically expire if not renewed on or before December 31 of the applicable biennial period. A delinquent licensee may renew a license by the payment of twice the biennial renewal fee at any time before March 1, but the delinquent licensee shall not practice during this period. Should the licensee wish to renew an expired license after the March 1 deadline has elapsed, the licensee shall submit a formal application as provided in Section 61-23-27.4 NMSA 1978. The board, in considering the reapplication, need not question the applicant's qualifications for licensure unless the qualifications have changed since the license expired.

#### **61-23-27.8. SURVEYING LICENSES AND SEALS.**

- A.** The board shall issue surveying licenses pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. The board shall provide for the proper authentication of all documents.
- B.** The board shall regulate the use of seals and may approve alternative authentications to physical or electronic seals.

**61-23-27.9. SURVEYING -- PRACTICE OF SURVEYING -- MANDATORY DISCLOSURE.**

**A.** No business entity shall be licensed pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. No business entity shall practice or offer to practice surveying in the state except as provided in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**B.** Professional surveyors may engage in the practice of surveying and perform surveying work pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978] as individuals or through a business entity. In the case of an individual, the individual shall be a professional surveyor pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. All plats, drawings and reports that are involved in the practice, or that are issued by or for the practice, shall bear the seal and signature of a professional surveyor in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work issued. In the case of practice through a business entity that is a partnership, at least one of the partners shall be a professional surveyor pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. In the case of a single professional surveyor partner, all drawings or reports issued by or for the partnership shall bear the seal of the professional surveyor partner who shall be responsible for the work. In the case of practice through a business entity other than a partnership, services or work involving the practice of surveying may be offered through the business entity; provided the person in responsible charge of the activities of the business entity that constitute the practice of surveying is a professional surveyor who has authority to bind the business entity by contract; and further provided that all drawings or reports that are involved in such practice, or that are issued by or for the business entity, bear the seal and signature of a professional surveyor in responsible charge of and directly responsible for the work when issued.

**C.** In the case of practice through a business entity offering or providing services or work involving the practice of surveying, an authorized company officer and the professional surveyor who is employed by the business entity and in responsible charge shall place on file with the board a signed affidavit, as prescribed by board rule. The affidavit shall be kept current, and, if there is any change in the professional surveyor or authorized company officer, the affidavit shall be promptly revised and resubmitted to the board.

**D.** An individual or business entity may not use or assume a name involving the terms "surveyor", "professional surveyor" or "surveying" or any modification or derivative of those terms unless that individual or business entity is qualified to practice surveying in accordance with the requirements of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act.

**E.** For all contracts and agreements for professional surveying services, the surveying services contractor shall provide a written statement indicating:

- (1) the minimum terms and conditions of professional liability insurance coverage, including limits and exceptions; or
- (2) the absence of professional liability insurance coverage.

**61-23-27.10. SURVEYING EXEMPTIONS.**

An employee of a business entity who performs only the surveying services involved in the operation of the business entity's business shall be exempt from the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [this article]; provided that neither the employee nor the business entity offers surveying services to the public; and provided further that the surveying services performed do not include any determination, description, portraying, measuring or monumentation of the boundaries of a tract of land. Performance of surveying on public works projects pursuant to Section 61-23-27.13 NMSA 1978 constitutes surveying services to the public and is not exempt.

**61-23-27.11. SURVEYING -- VIOLATIONS -- DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS -- PENALTIES -- REISSUANCE OF LICENSES.**

**A.** The board may suspend, refuse to renew or revoke the license, impose a fine not to exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500), place on probation for a specific period of time with specific conditions or reprimand a professional surveyor who is found by the board to have:

- (1) practiced or offered to practice surveying in New Mexico in violation of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;
- (2) attempted to use the license of another;
- (3) given false or forged evidence to the board or to any board member for obtaining a license;

(4) falsely impersonated any other licensee of like or different name;  
(5) attempted to use an expired, suspended or revoked license;  
(6) falsely purported to be a professional surveyor by claim, sign, advertisement or letterhead;  
(7) violated the rules of professional responsibility for professional surveyors adopted and promulgated by the board;

(8) been disciplined in another state for action that would constitute a violation of either or both the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act;

(9) been convicted of a felony; or

(10) procured, aided or abetted any violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act or the rules adopted by the board.

**B.** The board may by rule establish the guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving specific types of violations. Guidelines may include minimum and maximum fines, periods of probation or conditions of probation or reissuance of a license.

**C.** Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Uniform Licensing Act [Chapter 61, Article 1 NMSA 1978] is a misdemeanor and shall be grounds for further action against the licensee by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief.

**D.** A person may prefer charges of fraud, deceit, gross negligence, incompetency or misconduct against a professional surveyor. Such charges shall be in writing, shall be sworn to by the person making them and shall be filed with the executive director of the board. No action that would have any of the effects specified in Subsection D, E or F of Section 61-1-3 NMSA 1978 may be initiated later than two years after the discovery by the board, but in no case shall such an action be brought more than ten years after the completion of the conduct that constitutes the basis for the action. All charges shall be referred to the professional surveying committee, acting for the board, or to the board. All charges, unless dismissed as unfounded, trivial, resolved by reprimand or settled informally, shall be heard in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act by the surveying committee, acting for the board, or by the board.

**E.** Persons making charges shall not be subject to civil or criminal suits; provided that the charges are made in good faith and are not frivolous or malicious.

**F.** The board or a board member may initiate proceedings pursuant to the provisions of this section in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act. Nothing in the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall deny the right of appeal from the decision and order of the board in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.

**G.** The board, for reasons it deems sufficient, may reissue a license to a person whose license has been revoked or suspended; provided that a majority of the members of the surveying committee, acting for the board, or of the board votes in favor of reissuance. A new license bearing the original license number to replace a revoked, lost, destroyed or mutilated license may be issued subject to the rules of the board with payment of a fee determined by the board.

**H.** A violation of any provision of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) or by imprisonment of no more than one year, or both.

**I.** The attorney general or district attorney of the proper district or special prosecutor retained by the board shall prosecute violations of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act by a nonlicensee.

**J.** The practice of surveying in violation of the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act shall be deemed a nuisance and may be restrained and abated by injunction without bond in an action brought in the name of the state by the district attorney or on behalf of the board by the attorney general or the special prosecutor retained by the board. Action shall be brought in the county in which the violation occurs.

#### **61-23-27.12. SURVEYING -- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

The board shall implement and conduct a professional development program. Compliance and exceptions shall be established by the regulations and rules of procedure of the board.

#### **61-23-27.13. SURVEYING--PUBLIC WORK.**

It is unlawful for the state or any of its political subdivisions or any person to engage in the construction of any public work involving surveying unless the surveying is under the responsible charge of a licensed professional surveyor.

**61-23-27.14. SURVEYING -- PUBLIC OFFICER -- LICENSURE REQUIRED.**

No person except a licensed professional surveyor shall be eligible to hold any responsible office or position for the state or any political subdivision of the state that requires the performance or responsible charge of surveying work.

**61-23-27.15. AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE -- CIVIL PENALTIES FOR UNLICENSED PERSONS -- SURVEYING.**

**A.** The board may investigate and initiate a hearing on a complaint against a person who does not have a license, who is not exempt from the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978] and who acts in the capacity of a professional surveyor within the meaning of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act. A valid license is required for a person to act as a professional surveyor or to solicit or purport to perform work involving the practice of surveying.

**B.** If after the hearing the board determines that based on the evidence the person committed a violation under the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [61-23-1 NMSA 1978], it shall, in addition to any other sanction, action or remedy, issue an order that imposes a civil penalty up to seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per violation.

**C.** In determining the amount of the civil penalty it imposes, the board shall consider:

- (1) the seriousness of the violation;
- (2) the economic benefit to the violator that was generated by the violator's commission of the violation;
- (3) the violator's history of violations; and
- (4) any other considerations the board deems appropriate.

**D.** A person aggrieved may appeal a decision made or an order issued pursuant to Subsection B of this section to the district court pursuant to Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978.

**E.** Failure to pay a fine levied by the board or to otherwise comply with an order issued by the board pursuant to the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is a misdemeanor and upon conviction the person shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978. Conviction shall be grounds for further action against the person by the board and for judicial sanctions or relief, including a petition for injunction.

**61-23-28. REFERENCE MARKS -- REMOVAL OR OBLITERATION -- REPLACEMENT.**

When it becomes necessary by reason of the construction of public or private works to remove or obliterate any triangulation station, benchmark, corner, monument, stake, witness mark or other reference mark, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the work to cause to be established by a licensed surveyor one or more permanent reference marks, which shall be plainly marked as witness corners or reference marks as near as practicable to the original mark and to record a map, field notes or both with the county clerk of the county wherein located, showing clearly the position of the marks established with reference to the position of the original mark. The surveys or measurements made to connect the reference marks with the original mark shall be of at least the same order of precision as the original survey.

**61-23-28.1. Repealed.**

**61-23-28.2 SURVEYING -- RECORD OF SURVEY.**

**A.** For those surveys that do not create a division of land but only show existing tracts of record, except in the instance of remonumentation as specified in the board's minimum standards for boundary surveys, within sixty calendar days of the completion of the survey, a professional surveyor shall cause to be recorded at the office of the county clerk a survey entitled "boundary survey" that shall:

- (1) contain a printed certification of the professional surveyor stating that "this is a boundary survey of an existing tract", or existing tracts, if appropriate, and that "it is not a land division or subdivision as defined in the New Mexico Subdivision Act" [47-6-1 NMSA 1978];

(2) identify all tracts by the uniform parcel code designation or other designation established by the county assessor, if applicable;

(3) meet the minimum standards for surveying in New Mexico as established by the board; and

(4) not exceed a size of eighteen inches by twenty-four inches and be at least eight and one-half inches by eleven inches or as required by the local governing authority.

**B.** Fees for recording a boundary survey shall be in conformance with Section 14-8-15 NMSA 1978.

**C.** For those surveys that create a division of land, the survey shall be completed in conformity with the board's minimum standards and in conformity with the New Mexico Subdivision Act and any applicable local subdivision ordinances. Filing procedures shall be prescribed in the board's minimum standards. The record of survey required to be filed and recorded pursuant to this subsection shall be recorded at the office of the county clerk within sixty calendar days after completion of the survey or approval by the governing authority.

#### **61-23-29., 61-23-29.1 Repealed.**

#### **61-23-30. RIGHT OF ENTRY ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY -- RESPONSIBILITY.**

The engineers and surveyors of the United States and licensed professional engineers and surveyors of the state shall have the right to enter upon the lands and waters of the state and of private persons and of private and public corporations within the state for the purpose of making surveys, inspections, examinations and maps, subject to responsibility for actual damage to crops or other property or for injuries resulting from negligence or malice caused on account of that entry.

#### **61-23-31. LICENSURE UNDER PRIOR LAWS.**

Any person holding a valid license as a professional engineer, professional surveyor, professional engineer and surveyor or certification as an engineer intern or surveyor intern granted by the board pursuant to any prior law of New Mexico shall not be required to make a new application or to submit to an examination, but shall be entitled to the renewal of licensure upon the terms and conditions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act [this article].

#### **61-23-31.1. GOOD SAMARITAN.**

**A.** A professional engineer or professional surveyor who voluntarily, without compensation, at the request of a state or local public official acting in an official capacity, provides aircraft structure, structural, aeronautical, electrical, mechanical, other engineering services or surveying at the scene of a declared national, state or local emergency caused by a major earthquake, hurricane, tornado, fire, explosion, flood, collapse or other similar disaster or catastrophic event, such as a terrorist act, shall not be liable for any personal injury, wrongful death, property damage or other loss caused by the engineer's or surveyor's acts, errors or omissions in the performance of any surveying or engineering services for any structure, building, piping or other engineered system, publicly or governmentally owned.

**B.** The immunity provided shall apply only to a voluntary engineering or surveying service that occurs within thirty days of the emergency, disaster or catastrophic event, unless extended by an executive order issued by the governor under the governor's emergency executive powers. Nothing in this section shall provide immunity for wanton, willful or intentional misconduct.

#### **61-23-32. TERMINATION OF AGENCY LIFE -- DELAYED REPEAL.**

The state board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors is terminated on July 1, 2023 pursuant to the Sunset Act [Chapter 12, Article 9 NMSA 1978]. The board shall continue to operate according to the provisions of the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act until July 1, 2024. Effective July 1, 2024, the Engineering and Surveying Practice Act is repealed.

#### **61-23-33. NOTICE OF BOUNDARY SURVEY -- CERTAIN LAND GRANTS.**

**A.** If a boundary survey of property is conducted within or bordering the common lands of a community land grant governed and operating pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 6, 7, 8 or 10 NMSA 1978, the surveyor shall give

written notice by certified mail to the board of trustees or commissioners of the affected land grant prior to recording the boundary survey or plat with the county clerk. The notice shall indicate where and when the boundary survey will be or was conducted.

**B.** The board of trustees or commissioners of a community land grant governed and operating pursuant to Chapter 49, Article 6, 7, 8 or 10 NMSA 1978 shall record with the county clerk of the county within which the land grant is located the address and contact information of the appropriate officer of the board or commission to which notice shall be given pursuant to Subsection A of this section. Any change in address or contact information shall be updated and recorded as soon as practicable to ensure that timely notice may be accomplished by certified mail.

**C.** A surveyor shall give proof of the notice required by Subsection A of this section by having the tracking number of the certified mailing and the address of the land grant as recorded with the county clerk acknowledged and recorded on the boundary survey or plat. A boundary survey or plat recorded pursuant to Section 61-23-28.2 NMSA 1978 without proof of the notice required by Subsection A of this section shall not be considered a valid filing or recording of the boundary survey or plat.

#### **61-23-34. Repealed.**

#### **61-23-35 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**A.** The Board may establish an “engineering and surveying scholarship program” that provides strategies to enhance recruitment and retention of New Mexico professional engineers and professional surveyors, increase career and educational opportunities and improve interaction with the engineering and surveying professions and institutions of higher education. The program may provide direct educational and training scholarships through qualified New Mexico educational institutions to candidates for the engineering and surveying professions willing to reside and practice in New Mexico in an amount not to exceed annually one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the aggregate.

**B** The board may request and utilize appropriations to establish, implement and maintain the scholarship program. Any appropriation shall be deposited in the engineering and surveying scholarship fund.”

#### **61-23-36 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED**

The “engineering and surveying scholarship fund” is created in the state treasury to support the engineering and surveying scholarship program. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations and income from investment of the fund. Any income earned on investment of the fund shall remain in the fund. Money in the fund shall not revert to any other fund at the end of a fiscal year. The fund shall be administered by the board, and money in the fund is appropriated to the board to carry out the purposes of the engineering and surveying scholarship program. Disbursements from the fund shall be made by warrant of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers approved by the chair and signed by the executive director of the board.



