

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 546

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ENGINEERS: Provides relative to professional engineers

1 AN ACT

2 To amends and reenact R.S. 37:681, 682(13)(b), and 700(A)(7), relative to professional  
3 engineers; to provide for the use of certain terms relating to the practice of  
4 engineering; to provide for general provisions; to provide for definitions; to provide  
5 for enforcement proceedings; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 37:681, 682(13)(b), and 700(A)(7) are hereby amended and  
8 reenacted to read as follows:

9 §681. General provisions

10 In order to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public  
11 welfare, any individual in either public or private capacity, or foreign or domestic  
12 firm, practicing or offering to practice professional engineering or professional land  
13 surveying, shall be required to submit evidence that he is qualified to so practice and  
14 shall be licensed as hereinafter provided. It shall be unlawful for any person to  
15 practice or to offer to practice in this state engineering or land surveying, as defined  
16 in this Chapter, or to use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, use, or  
17 advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he is a  
18 professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, unless such person has been  
19 duly licensed under the provisions of this Chapter. A person shall not be in violation  
20 of this Section solely by the use of the word "engineer" or "engineering" in a name,



1 or form of business or activity except as licensed under this Chapter or in the pursuit  
 2 of activities exempted by this Chapter. However, the board shall not have the power  
 3 to take any enforcement action against any nonlicensee or noncertificate holder  
 4 solely for using the words "engineer" or "engineering" in a name, job title, personnel  
 5 classification, business title, verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or  
 6 any other similar description or use, so long as nonlicense holder or noncertificate  
 7 holder does not practice or offer to practice engineering as defined in this Chapter.

8 \* \* \*

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 546 Original

2023 Regular Session

Pressly

**Abstract:** Clarifies whether a person may use the term of engineer, engineering, or practice of engineering.

Present law requires that any individual practicing or offering to practice professional engineering or professional land surveying, shall be required to submit evidence that he is qualified to do so. No person shall practice or offer to practice in this state engineering or land surveying or to use in connection with his name or otherwise assume, use, or advertise any title or description that conveys the impression that he is a professional engineer or a professional land surveyor, unless they has been licensed.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that a person shall not be in violation of present law solely by the use of the word "engineer" or "engineering" in a name, job title, personnel classification, business title, verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or any other similar description or use.

Present law provides that a person shall be construed to practice or offer to practice engineering: who practices in any discipline of the profession of engineering; or who, by verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or in any other way represents himself to be a professional engineer; or who represents himself as able to perform; or who does perform any engineering service or work or any other professional service designated by the practitioner or recognized by educational authorities as engineering. The practice of engineering shall not include the work ordinarily performed by a person who himself operates or maintains machinery or equipment.

Proposed law retains present law and includes that a person shall not be construed to be practicing or offering to practice engineering or otherwise fall under the definition of "practice of engineering" as defined in present law solely by the use of the word "engineer" or "engineering" in a name, job title, personnel classification, business title, verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or any other similar use.

Present law states that the board shall have the power to take enforcement action against a person for the use of the words "engineer" or "engineering" or "land surveyor" or "land

surveying" or any modification or derivative thereof in its name or form of business or activity except as licensed.

Proposed law retains present law and includes that the board shall not have the power to take any enforcement action against any nonlicensee or noncertificate holder solely for using the words "engineer" or "engineering" in a name, job title, personnel classification, business title, verbal claim, sign, advertisement, letterhead, card, or any other similar description or use, so long as nonlicense holder or noncertificate holder does not practice or offer to practice engineering.

(Amends R.S. 37:681, 682(13)(b), and 700(A)(7))