

**BOARD FOR ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS,
CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

The Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects held a public hearing on September 9, 2025, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, to receive public comment regarding the Board's proposed regulations published in the Virginia Register on August 11, 2025.

Board staff present:

Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Jhustyna McBride-Dunn, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Davon Jones, Administrative Coordinator

Ms. McBride-Dunn began the public hearing at 2:00 p.m. and read an introductory statement regarding the purpose and rules of the hearing.


Commencement of Public Hearing

Public comments are noted in the attached transcript.

Public Comment Period

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment



Troy Arnold III, Chair



Laura V. McClintock, Secretary

1 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

2 DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

3
4 BOARD FOR APELSCIDLA

5
6
7 HEARD BEFORE: JHUSTYNA MC BRIDE-DUNN

8
9
10 September 9, 2025

11 SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER

12 HENRICO, VIRGINIA 23233

13 2:00 P.M.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES: JHUSTYNA MC BRIDE-DUNN, Regulatory Operations
Administrator

BOARD DESIGNEE: KATHLEEN NOSBISCH, Executive Director of the
APELSCIDLA Board

ALSO PRESENT: JOHN CLAYTOR, CHRISTOPHER STONE, GEORGE DAHL

1

2

NOTE: The Public Hearing convened

3

at 2:00 p.m.

4

MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: I am Jhustyna McBride-Dunn,

5

Regulatory Operations Administrator of the Board for

6

APELSCIDLA, This is a public hearing being held at the DPOR,

7

Richmond, Virginia. This hearing is held pursuant to 54.1-310

8

of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of receiving public

9

comments on proposed amendments to the Board for Architects,

10

Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior

11

Designers and Landscape Architects Regulations, with the

12

General Review of Board for4 APELSCIDLA published in the

13

Virginia Register on August 11, 2025, in Volume 41, Issue 26.

14

A few ground rules before we begin. The Board

15

will receive comments from any speaker who wishes to provide a

16

written statement, in addition to their oral testimony, may do

17

so and the written statement will be marked as an exhibit for

18

this hearing.

19

Written comments not presented at this hearing

20

will be accepted at the following address: Board for

21

APELSCIDLA, care of Department of Professional and Occupational

22

Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400, Richmond,

23

Virginia 23233.

24

Comments may also be sent via fax

25

to 866-465-6206 or by e-mail at: Apelscidla@dpor.virginia.gov.

1 Written comments will be accepted by the Board until 5:00 p.m.
2 October 10, 2025. On October 10, 2025.

3 John Claytor, would you like to speak?

4 MR. CLAYTOR: I do not. Thank you.

5 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Then the next person will
6 be Chris Stone. You will have five minutes to speak.

7 MR. STONE: Thank you very much. My name is
8 Chris Stone, professional engineer, licensed, served on the
9 Board for eight years.

10 I want to thank you for the effort to streamline
11 and modernize our regulations. There is much to applaud in
12 their package: Clearer definitions, simpler exam processes,
13 updated survey accuracy standards and recognition of virtual
14 supervision. These are smart adjustments that bring Virginia
15 closer to modern practice.

16 But I believe several provisions deserve
17 refinement to protect both public safety and professional
18 mobility. First, the Engineer-in-Training Designation.
19 The proposal makes the EIT valid indefinitely. That may sound
20 efficient, but it risks creating a class of EITs who passed the
21 FE exam twenty or thirty years ago and never progressed.
22 Most states require renewal or proof of progress. I urge the
23 Board to add a light renewal requirement, perhaps every four
24 years, so competency remains current.

25 Second, the Professional Engineer pathways.

1 Restoring flexibility is helpful, the "20-year route" without
2 passage of the Fundamentals exam is outdated. Across the
3 country, most states have closed this door to preserve rigor.
4 Every new licensee, regardless of experience, should
5 demonstrate mastery of the fundamentals.

6 Third, the removal of professional references.
7 References may feel like red tape, but they provide a critical
8 peer-review safeguard. At least one PE reference should be
9 retained so that ethics and competence are affirmed by the
10 profession, itself.

11 Fourth, licensure by endorsement. The draft
12 requires engineers from other states to prove their original
13 licensure met standards "substantially equivalent" to
14 Virginia's at that time. That's a high bar fo0r someone
15 licensed decades ago. Other states focus on current competency
16 and good standing. I recommend Virginia's do the same. On the
17 international side, recognition of the international
18 Engineering Alliance is a good step, but our extra seven-year
19 requirement may make Virginia less competitive for talent
20 compared to peer states.

21 Finally, with the elimination of branch office
22 registration, we must be careful that accountability doesn't
23 get lost. Virtual supervision can work, but the regulations
24 should spell out exactly who is in responsible charge and how
25 supervision is documented.

1 In short, these proposed changes are moving in
2 the right direction. But if Virginia adopts modest
3 safeguards -- renewable EITs, a fundamentals requirement for
4 all new PEs, at least one reference, endorsement focused on
5 present competency and clear rules for virtual supervision --
6 then we will have both efficiency and rigor.

7 These changes can make licensure more accessible
8 without weakening standards. Virginia should remain
9 competitive with other states while ensuring public safety,
10 integrity, and trust in our profession.

11 Thank you for your service and for the
12 opportunity to comment.

13 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Thank you so much.

14 Next we have George Dahl.

15 MR. DAHL: Good morning, professional engineer.

16 I am a VAC representative to the APEL Board.

17 And I concur with Mr. Stone's comments.

18 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: That was it?

19 MR. DAHL: Why say it twice? She was
20 overwhelmed already. Why do it twice to her?

21 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: At this time, if there's no
22 rebuttals --

23 MR. STONE: Can I have one more minute?

24 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Yes.

25 MR. STONE: So there are two other things that

1 gave me pause.

2 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Would you like this back?

3 MR. STONE: So this is under

4 18VAC 10-20-4, good standing of applicants, under Section B. It
5 talks about: Applicants must report any disciplinary action
6 related to the profession of engineering or a any suspended,
7 revoked or surrendered license for registration.

8 There's no time on that. And I was curious. I
9 thought that, you know, you had to report it within sixty days,
10 ninety days; but it's not in the regulations. It doesn't say
11 that.

12 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Okay. I'm going to pull
13 that up, just so I can mark exactly what you're talking about.

14 MR. STONE: And it's the same thing
15 for 10-20-40: Applicants must report any felony or misdemeanor
16 conviction or any convictions, including any misdemeanor
17 marijuana convictions.

18 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Let me pull that up.

19 I see exactly what you're talking about. So
20 this is specifically at the time of initial licensure that they
21 must report this. The Regulations do not have anything that
22 would require them to tell us, outside of initial licensing.

23 MR. STONE: I thought it was upon renewal.

24 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: That initial licensing, we
25 wouldn't ask them for prior discipline.

1 So for renewal, when you're going before,
2 there's a licensure you have to fill out for renewal; but in
3 between, there isn't a provision that says you have to report
4 that to us, other than those two times. That is something that
5 we are aware of and that we are working to amend. But, as it
6 stands right now, sir, there is no provision, other than
7 initial licensure at the time of renewal, to report any
8 criminal convictions.

9 MR. STONE: If I remember correctly, you had to
10 change your physical address for the Board within thirty days.

11 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Thirty days. Everything
12 was thirty days.

13 MR. STONE: Yeah, and that's what I remember.
14 That's why I thought that this should include something that
15 says: In thirty days.

16 MISS NOSBISCH: So you're proposing the thirty
17 days? Okay.

18 MR. STONE: Yeah.

19 MISS NOSBISCH: Not for initially, but --

20 MR. STONE: Yes. And that will probably go
21 along with the change of address thing.

22 The other thing, as someone who reviews the
23 applications, I know a lot of times the experience,
24 under 10-20-240 is sometimes difficult, I think, for applicants
25 to decipher.

1 But one of the things that I have seen, and I
2 have seen it on a couple other applications, under 2-2,
3 number 7, it says: For teaching experience to be considered
4 qualifying by the Board, the applicant must have taught in an
5 engineering program approved by the Board and must have been
6 employed at the level of inspector or higher.

7 We don't really approve. The Board doesn't
8 really approve an engineering program approved by the Board.
9 We don't really do that.

10 MISS NOSBISCH: Okay. We'll take this under
11 consideration. I found what you're talking about reviewing.
12 You're talking about, specifically, engineering programs
13 approved by the Board. And now you're saying Board doesn't
14 really approve?

15 MR. STONE: We don't approve engineering
16 licenses.

17 MISS NOSBISCH: Okay. We'll take that under
18 consideration.

19 MR. STONE: The other thing is for teaching, I
20 think the employment as an instructor should be full time.

21 MISS NOSBISCH: Full-time.

22 MR. STONE: I have seen a lot of applications
23 where somebody is a part-time teacher. I used to teach
24 part-time. I taught one class.

25 MISS NOSBISCH: Yup, I got you.

1 MR. STONE: I shouldn't get credit and
2 experience for teaching one class.

3 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Understood. We will take
4 that under consideration. I have those two written down as
5 well, the thirty-day aspect, as well as the teaching, Number 7.

6 One for the Board being approved by the Board as
7 well, as with full-time employment.

8 MR. STONE: Right. I hope I have been helpful.

9 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: You have. Thank you so
10 much.

11 MISS NOSBISCH: Excuse me. Chris, does that
12 have the additional items that you added on here at the end,
13 your paper?

14 MR. STONE: Do you have a paper with that on it?

15 MR. STONE: No, but I can submit it formally.

16 MISS NOSBISCH: Great. Thank you.

17 MISS MC BRIDE-DUNN: Since there is no one else
18 in attendance to provide comments on the regulations, I declare
19 this public hearing closed.

20

21 * * * *

22 (Whereupon the Public Hearing concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

23

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2
3
4 I, Dawn Testa, hereby certify that I was the
5 Court Reporter at the informal fact-Finding Conference
6 regarding PUBLIC HEARING heard in the County of Henrico,
7 Virginia, on September 9, 2025, at the time of the hearing
8 herein.

9 I further certify that the foregoing transcript
10 is, to the best of my ability, a true and accurate record of
11 the testimony and incidents of the hearing herein.

12 Given under my hand this 9th day of
13 August, 2025.

14 *Dawn Testa*

15 Dawn Testa
16 Notary Registration No. 7811201

17
18 My Commission Expires:
19 August 31, 2027
20
21
22
23
24
25

WORD INDEX

< 1 >

10 4:2
 10-20-240 8:24
 10-20-4 7:4
 10-20-40 7:15
 11 3:13
 18VAC 7:4

< 2 >

2:00 1:13 3:3
 2025 1:10 3:13 4:2
 11:7, 13
 2027 11:18
 20-year 5:1
 2-2 9:2
 23233 1:12 3:23
 26 3:13

< 3 >

3:00 10:22
 31 11:18

< 4 >

400 3:22
 41 3:13

< 5 >

5:00 4:1
 54.1-310 3:7

< 7 >

7 9:3 10:5
 7811201 11:15

< 8 >

866-465-6206 3:25

< 9 >

9 1:10 11:7
 9960 3:22
 9th 11:12

< A >

ability 11:10
 accepted 3:20 4:1
 accessible 6:7
 accountability 5:22

accuracy 4:13
 accurate 11:10
 action 7:5
 add 4:23
 added 10:12
 addition 3:16
 additional 10:12
 address 3:20 8:10, 21
 adjustments 4:14
 Administrator 2:2
 3:5
 adopts 6:2
 affirmed 5:9
 ago 4:21 5:15
 Alliance 5:18
 amend 8:5
 amendments 3:9
 APEL 6:16
 APELSCIDLA 1:4
 2:5 3:6, 12, 21
 Apelscidla@dpor.virginia.gov 3:25
 APPEARANCES 2:1
 applaud 4:11
 applicant 9:4
 applicants 7:4, 5, 15
 8:24
 applications 8:23
 9:2, 22
 approve 9:7, 8, 14, 15
 approved 9:5, 8, 13
 10:6
 Architects 3:9, 11
 aspect 10:5
 attendance 10:18
 August 3:13 11:13, 18
 aware 8:5

< B >

back 7:2
 bar 5:14
 believe 4:16
 best 11:10
 BOARD 1:4 2:4, 5
 3:5, 9, 12, 14, 20 4:1,
 9, 23 6:16 8:10 9:4,
 5, 7, 8, 13 10:6
 branch 5:21

BRIDE-DUNN 1:7
 2:1 3:4 4:5 6:13, 18,
 21, 24 7:2, 12, 18, 24
 8:11 10:3, 9, 17
 bring 4:14

< C >

care 3:21
 careful 5:22
 CENTER 1:11
 CERTIFICATE 11:1
 Certified 3:10
 certify 11:4, 9
 change 8:10, 21
 changes 6:1, 7
 charge 5:24
 Chris 4:6, 8 10:11
 CHRISTOPHER 2:7
 class 4:20 9:24 10:2
 CLAYTOR 2:7 4:3,
 4
 clear 6:5
 Clearer 4:12
 closed 5:3 10:19
 closer 4:15
 Code 3:8
 comment 6:12
 comments 3:9, 15, 19,
 24 4:1 6:17 10:18
 Commission 11:18
 COMMONWEALTH
 1:1
 compared 5:20
 competence 5:9
 competency 4:24
 5:15 6:5
 competitive 5:19 6:9
 concluded 10:22
 concur 6:17
 CONFERENCE 1:11
 11:5
 consideration 9:11,
 18 10:4
 considered 9:3
 convened 3:2
 conviction 7:16
 convictions 7:16, 17
 8:8
 correctly 8:9

country 5:3
 County 11:6
 couple 9:2
 COURT 11:1, 5
 creating 4:20
 credit 10:1
 criminal 8:8
 critical 5:7
 curious 7:8
 current 4:24 5:15

< D >

DAHL 2:7 6:14, 15,
 19
 Dawn 11:4, 15
 day 11:12
 days 7:9, 10 8:10, 11,
 12, 15, 17
 decades 5:15
 decipher 8:25
 declare 10:18
 definitions 4:12
 demonstrate 5:5
 DEPARTMENT 1:2
 3:21
 deserve 4:16
 Designation 4:18
 DESIGNEE 2:4
 Designers 3:11
 difficult 8:24
 direction 6:2
 Director 2:4
 disciplinary 7:5
 discipline 7:25
 documented 5:25
 door 5:3
 DPOR 3:6
 draft 5:11
 Drive 3:22

< E >
 efficiency 6:6
 efficient 4:20
 effort 4:10
 eight 4:9
 EIT 4:19
 EITs 4:20 6:3
 elimination 5:21
 e-mail 3:25
 employed 9:6

employment 9:20
10:7
endorsement 5:11
6:4
engineer 4:8, 25 6:15
Engineering 5:18
7:6 9:5, 8, 12, 15
Engineer-in-Training
4:18
Engineers 3:10 5:12
ensuring 6:9
equivalent 5:13
ethics 5:9
exactly 5:24 7:13, 19
exam 4:12, 21 5:2
Excuse 10:11
Executive 2:4
exhibit 3:17
experience 5:4 8:23
9:3 10:2
Expires 11:18
extra 5:18

< F >

fact-Finding 11:5
fax 3:24
FE 4:21
feel 5:7
felony 7:15
fill 8:2
Finally 5:21
First 4:18
five 4:6
flexibility 5:1
FLOOR 1:11
fo0r 5:14
focus 5:15
focused 6:4
following 3:20
for4 3:12
foregoing 11:9
formally 10:15
found 9:11
fours 4:23
Fourth 5:11
full 9:20
Full-time 9:21 10:7
Fundamentals 5:2, 5
6:3

further 11:9
< G >
General 3:12
GEORGE 2:7 6:14
Given 11:12
go 8:20
going 7:12 8:1
good 5:16, 18 6:15
7:4
Great 10:16
ground 3:14

< H >

hand 11:12
HEARD 1:7 11:6
Hearing 3:2, 6, 7, 18,
19 10:19, 22 11:6, 7,
11
held 3:6, 7
helpful 5:1 10:8
HENRICO 1:12 11:6
high 5:14
higher 9:6
hope 10:8

< I >

incidents 11:11
include 8:14
including 7:16
indefinitely 4:19
informal 11:5
initial 7:20, 22, 24
8:7
initially 8:19
inspector 9:6
instructor 9:20
integrity 6:10
Interior 3:10
international 5:17
Issue 3:13
items 10:12

< J >

JHUSTYNA 1:7 2:1
3:4
JOHN 2:7 4:3

< K >

KATHLEEN 2:4
know 7:9 8:23

< L >

Land 3:10
Landscape 3:11
level 9:6
license 7:7
licensed 4:8 5:15
licensee 5:4
licenses 9:16
licensing 7:22, 24
licensure 5:11, 13
6:7 7:20 8:2, 7
light 4:23
lost 5:23
lot 8:23 9:22

< M >

marijuana 7:17
mark 7:13
marked 3:17
mastery 5:5
Mayland 3:22
MC 1:7 2:1 3:4
4:5 6:13, 18, 21, 24
7:2, 12, 18, 24 8:11
10:3, 9, 17
McBride-Dunn 3:4
met 5:13
minute 6:23
minutes 4:6
misdemeanor 7:15, 16
mobility 4:18
modern 4:15
modernize 4:11
modest 6:2
morning 6:15
moving 6:1

< N >

name 4:7
never 4:21
new 5:4 6:4
ninety 7:10
NOSBISCH 2:4
8:16, 19 9:10, 17, 21,
25 10:11, 16
Notary 11:15

NOTE 3:2
number 9:3 10:5

< O >

OCCUPATIONAL
1:2 3:21
October 4:2
office 5:21
Okay 7:12 8:17
9:10, 17
Operations 2:1 3:5
opportunity 6:12
oral 3:16
original 5:12
outdated 5:2
outside 7:22
overwhelmed 6:20

< P >

P.M 1:13 3:3 4:1
10:22
package 4:12
paper 10:13, 14
part-time 9:23, 24
passage 5:2
passed 4:20
pathways 4:25
pause 7:1
PE 5:8
peer 5:20
peer-review 5:8
person 4:5
PEs 6:4
physical 8:10
practice 4:15
PRESENT 2:7 6:5
presented 3:19
preserve 5:3
prior 7:25
probably 8:20
processes 4:12
profession 5:10 6:10
7:6
PROFESSIONAL
1:2 3:10, 21 4:8, 17,
25 5:6 6:15
program 9:5, 8
programs 9:12
progress 4:22

<p> progressed 4:21 proof 4:22 proposal 4:19 proposed 3:9 6:1 proposing 8:16 protect 4:17 prove 5:12 provide 3:15 5:7 10:18 provision 8:3, 6 provisions 4:16 Public 3:2, 6, 8 4:17 6:9 10:19, 22 11:6 published 3:12 pull 7:12, 18 purpose 3:8 pursuant 3:7 < Q > qualifying 9:4 < R > really 9:7, 8, 9, 14 rebuttals 6:22 receive 3:15 receiving 3:8 recognition 4:13 5:17 recommend 5:16 record 11:10 red 5:7 reference 5:8 6:4 references 5:6, 7 refinement 4:17 regarding 11:6 regardless 5:4 Register 3:13 registration 5:22 7:7 11:15 REGULATION 1:2 3:22 Regulations 3:11 4:11 5:23 7:10, 21 10:18 Regulatory 2:1 3:5 related 7:6 remain 6:8 remains 4:24 remember 8:9, 13 removal 5:6 renewable 6:3 </p>	<p> renewal 4:22, 23 7:23 8:1, 2, 7 report 7:5, 9, 15, 21 8:3, 7 REPORTER 11:1, 5 representative 6:16 require 4:22 7:22 requirement 4:23 5:19 6:3 requires 5:12 responsible 5:24 Restoring 5:1 retained 5:9 Review 3:12 reviewing 9:11 reviews 8:22 revoked 7:7 Richmond 3:7, 22 right 6:2 8:6 10:8 rigor 5:3 6:6 risks 4:20 route 5:1 rules 3:14 6:5 < S > safeguard 5:8 safeguards 6:3 safety 4:17 6:9 saying 9:13 says 8:3, 15 9:3 SECOND 1:11 4:25 Section 7:4 see 7:19 seen 9:1, 2, 22 sent 3:24 September 1:10 11:7 served 4:8 service 6:11 seven-year 5:18 short 6:1 side 5:17 simpler 4:12 sir 8:6 sixty 7:9 smart 4:14 somebody 9:23 sound 4:19 speak 4:3, 6 speaker 3:15 </p>	<p> specifically 7:20 9:12 spell 5:24 standards 4:13 5:13 6:8 standing 5:16 7:4 stands 8:6 statement 3:16, 17 states 4:22 5:3, 12, 15, 20 6:9 step 5:18 STONE 2:7 4:6, 7, 8 6:23, 25 7:3, 14, 23 8:9, 13, 18, 20 9:15, 19, 22 10:1, 8, 14, 15 Stone's 6:17 streamline 4:10 submit 10:15 substantially 5:13 Suite 3:22 supervision 4:14 5:23, 25 6:5 surrendered 7:7 survey 4:13 Surveyors 3:10 suspended 7:6 < T > take 9:10, 17 10:3 talent 5:19 talking 7:13, 19 9:11, 12 talks 7:5 tape 5:7 taught 9:4, 24 teach 9:23 teacher 9:23 teaching 9:3, 19 10:2, 5 tell 7:22 Testa 11:4, 15 testimony 3:16 11:11 Thank 4:4, 7, 10 6:11, 13 10:9, 16 thing 7:14 8:21, 22 9:19 things 6:25 9:1 think 8:24 9:20 Third 5:6 thirty 4:21 8:10, 11, 12, 15, 16 thirty-day 10:5 thought 7:9, 23 8:14 time 5:14 6:21 7:8, 20 8:7 9:20 11:7 times 8:4, 23 transcript 11:9 true 11:10 trust 6:10 twenty 4:21 twice 6:19, 20 two 6:25 8:4 10:4 < U > Understood 10:3 updated 4:13 urge 4:22 < V > VAC 6:16 valid 4:19 VIRGINIA 1:1, 12 3:7, 8, 13, 23 4:14 5:19 6:2, 8 11:7 Virginia's 5:14, 16 virtual 4:13 5:23 6:5 Volume 3:13 < W > want 4:10 weakening 6:8 well 10:5, 7 wishes 3:15 work 5:23 working 8:5 written 3:16, 17, 19 4:1 10:4 < Y > Yeah 8:13, 18 years 4:9, 21, 24 Yup 9:25 </p>
---	---	---