



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Sarah S. Benson *Sarah S. Benson*

SUBJECT: Proposed Addition of Section 52.49 to and Amendment of Sections 68.4 and 68.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Licensure Requirements for Land Surveyors

DATE: July 1, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Don McG* *Betty*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent)

Should the Board of Regents add section 52.49 to and amend sections 68.4 and 68.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the licensure requirements for land surveyors?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute (Chapter 322 of the Laws of 2019).

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is being presented to the Full Board for adoption as a permanent rule at the July 2021 meeting of the Board of Regents. A copy of the proposed rule is included (Attachment A).

Procedural History

The proposed amendment was presented to the Professional Practice Committee for recommendation and to the Full Board for adoption as an emergency rule at the March 2021 meeting of the Board of Regents, effective April 3, 2021. A Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on March 31, 2021 for a 60-day public comment period. Because the March emergency action was set to expire on June 13, 2021, a second emergency action was necessary at the June 2021 meeting of the Board of Regents, effective June 14, 2021, to ensure the emergency rule remained continuously in effect until it could be

permanently adopted and take effect as a permanent rule. Following publication in the State Register, the Department received one supportive comment on the proposed amendment. An Assessment of Public Comment is included (Attachment B). No changes to the amendment are recommended at this time. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

Chapter 322 of the Laws of 2019 (Chapter 322) amends section 7206-a of the Education Law, effective April 3, 2021, to, inter alia, update the education and experience requirements for licensure as a land surveyor to conform with national standards. Historically, the majority of land surveyors were licensed through an all experience pathway, instead of through an education and experience combination pathway. However, over time, the national land surveying licensure examinations have been updated to test at a bachelor's degree level of knowledge. Presently, there are six educational programs with land surveying programs/courses located throughout New York State.

While the all experience pathway to licensure was a common practice for many years in numerous states, including New York State, it is being repealed in a number of jurisdictions. Including New York State, there remain only seven of the 51 United States jurisdictions which currently report having an all experience pathway for the licensure of land surveyors. Nationally, it has been found that individuals who take the all experience pathway to land surveyor licensure are more likely to fail the national licensing examinations multiple times versus individuals who take the combination of education and experience pathway to licensure.

Chapter 322 phases out the all experience pathway to land surveyor licensure, in eight years, in order to provide individuals who are currently gaining experience to be licensed under this pathway the opportunity to complete it.

In addition to updating the education and experience requirements for land surveyor licensure and gradually phasing out the all experience pathway to licensure, Chapter 322 makes conforming changes that allow practical experience satisfactory to the Department to be used to meet the experience requirements and modifies the fees for initial licensure and the triennial registration periods to reflect the fact that the examination is no longer administered by the Department.

Additionally, Chapter 322 allows applicants with an associate's degree in land surveying, or an associate's degree or higher in engineering, math or a related science with credits in land surveying acceptable to the Department to apply for licensure without having to meet the education requirements currently specified in the Education Law if they obtain additional experience; and requires applicants to fulfill the education, experience, and examination requirements in accordance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner's regulations). Chapter 322 further provides that after passing the licensure examination, an intern land surveyor identification card will be issued by the Department to applicants.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed addition of section 52.49 to the Commissioner's regulations establishes the program registration requirements for land surveyor education programs in accordance with the State statute. These requirements include registration and curriculum requirements for programs offered in New York State that lead to licensure as a land surveyor. The proposed amendment requires land surveyor education programs to be: (1) an approved course of study in land surveying or a substantially equivalent program as determined by the Department, which leads to a bachelor's degree or higher; or (2) an approved course of study in land surveying which leads to an associate's degree; or (3) an approved course of study which leads to an associate's degree or higher in engineering, math, or a related science or their substantial equivalent and includes a minimum of 15 semester hours in the following four specified subject areas: (a) survey I; (b) survey II; (c) boundary/survey law 1; and (d) boundary/survey law 2, and if 15 semester hours are not gained in any of the four specified subject areas, any additional courses or their substantial equivalent from any of the following seven specified subject areas: (a) cadastral; (b) geodesy; (c) measurement/analysis; (d) remote sensing; (e) digital surveying methods; (f) route surveying; or (g) photogrammetry and aerial photo interpretations.

The proposed amendment to section 68.4 of the Commissioner's Regulations amends the land surveyor education requirements for licensure by requiring: (1) completion of a bachelor's degree or higher in land surveying or the equivalent from a program approved by the Department as recommended by the State Board for professional licensure purposes and three years of land surveying experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board for Engineering, Land Surveying and Geology (State Board); (2) completion of a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering, math, or related science with 15 credits of surveying course work acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board as set forth in section 52.49 of the Commissioner's Regulations and four years of land surveying experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board; (3) completion of an associate's degree in land surveying and five-and-a-half years of land surveying experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board; (4) completion of an associate's degree in engineering, math, or related science with 15 credits of land surveying course work acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board as set forth in section 52.49 of the Commissioner's regulations and six years of land surveying experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board; or (5) completion of an approved secondary course of study; and for those applying for licensure on or after September 1, 1987, the equivalent of eight years of land surveying experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board, provided that all experience is completed prior to April 3, 2029 and provided that each full year of college study in engineering or land surveying program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience to a maximum of four years.

The proposed amendment to section 68.6 of the Commissioner's Regulations amends, among other things, the admission requirements for the fundamentals of surveying examination by requiring an applicant to: (1) be within 20 credits of graduation from a bachelor's degree program in surveying registered as leading to licensure pursuant to section 52.49 of the Commissioner's regulations, or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or a bachelor's degree program that is substantially equivalent to such a registered or accredited program as determined by Department as recommended by the State Board; (2) hold a bachelor's degree in engineering, math, or a related science with 15 credits of surveying as set forth in section 52.49 of the Commissioner's regulations and have completed one year of experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board; (3) hold an associate's degree in surveying accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or an associate's degree program that is substantially equivalent to such a registered or accredited program as determined by the Department and have completed two and a half years of experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board; or (4) hold an associate's degree in engineering, math, or related science with 15 credits of surveying as set forth in section 52.49 of the Commissioner's Regulations and have completed three years of experience acceptable to the Department as recommended by the State Board.

Additionally, the proposed amendment to section 68.6 of the Commissioner's regulations requires an applicant for admission to the principles and practice of surveying and the New York State jurisdictional surveying examinations to have completed the education and experience requirements set forth in section 68.4 of the Commissioner's regulations.

Related Regents Item

March 2021: [Proposed Addition of Section 52.49 to and Amendment of Sections 68.4 and 68.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Licensure Requirements for Land Surveyors](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/321ppca1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/321ppca1.pdf>)

June 2021: [Proposed Addition of Section 52.49 to and Amendment of Sections 68.4 and 68.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Licensure Requirements for Land Surveyors](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/621brca16.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/621brca16.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action:

VOTED: That section 52.49 be added, and sections 68.4 and 68.6 be amended, as submitted, effective July 28, 2021.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the July 2021 meeting of the Board of Regents, the proposed amendment will become effective as a permanent rule on July 28, 2021.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 6504, 6507, 7203, 7204 and 7206-a of the Education Law and Chapter 322 of the Laws of 2019

1. The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended by adding a new section 52.49, to read as follows:

Section 52.49 Land Surveyor

In addition to meeting all the applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program recognized as leading to licensure as a land surveyor, which meets the requirements of section 68.4 of this Title, the program shall be:

(a) an approved course of study in land surveying or a substantially equivalent program as determined by the department, which leads to a bachelor's degree or higher; or

(b) an approved course of study in land surveying which leads to an associate's degree; or

(c) an approved course of study which leads to an associate's degree or higher in engineering, math, or a related science or their substantial equivalent and includes a minimum of 15 semester hours that must include one course or its substantial equivalent in each of the following four (4) subject areas:

(1) survey I;

(2) survey II;

(3) boundary/survey law 1; and

(4) boundary/survey law 2.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of this section, if after completion of all four courses or their substantial equivalent set forth in paragraphs (1)-(4) of subdivision (c) of this section, the minimum 15 semester hours are not gained, any additional courses or their substantial equivalent from any of the following seven subject areas shall satisfy the 15 semester hour requirements of this subdivision:

(i) cadastral;

(ii) geodesy;

(iii) measurement/analysis;

(iv) remote sensing;

(v) digital surveying methods;

(vi) route surveying; or

(vii) photogrammetry and aerial photo interpretations.

2. Section 68.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, to read as follows:

Section 68.4. Professional study of land surveying

(a) [To meet the professional study requirement for licensure, the applicant shall present evidence of:

(1) possession of a bachelor's degree in land surveying or the equivalent from a program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes and four years of land surveying experience acceptable to the State Board; or

(2) completion of an approved secondary course of study; and

(i) for those applying prior to September 1, 1987, the equivalent of six years of land surveying experience acceptable to the board, provided that each complete year of

study in a land surveying program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience to a maximum of two years; and

(ii) for those applying on or after September 1, 1987, the equivalent of eight years of land surveying experience acceptable to the board, provided that each complete year of study in a land surveying program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience to a maximum of four years.] As used in this section, acceptable accrediting agency shall mean an organization accepted by the department as a reliable authority for the purpose of accrediting land surveying, engineering or other math and science programs as having reasonable accreditation standards and as an organization that applies its criteria for granting accreditation of programs in a fair, consistent, and nondiscriminatory manner.

(b) To meet the professional study requirement for [certification as an intern land surveyor] licensure, the applicant shall present evidence of:

(1) [possession] completion of a bachelor's degree or higher in land surveying or the equivalent from a program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes and three years of land surveying experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(2) [completion of an approved secondary course of study; and

(i) for those applying prior to September 1, 1987, the equivalent of six years of land surveying experience acceptable to the board, provided that each complete year of study in a land surveying program approved by the department for professional

licensure purposes may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience, to a maximum of two years; and

(ii) for those applying on or after September 1, 1987, the equivalent of eight years of land surveying experience acceptable to the board, provided that each complete year of study in a land surveying program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience, to a maximum of four years.] completion of a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering, math, or related science with 15 credits of surveying course work acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board as set forth in section 52.49 of this Title and four years of land surveying experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(3) completion of an associate's degree in land surveying and five-and-a-half years of land surveying experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(4) completion of an associate's degree in engineering, math, or related science with 15 credits of land surveying course work acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board as set forth in section 52.49 of this Title and six years of land surveying experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(5) completion of an approved secondary course of study; and

(i) for those applying for licensure on or after September 1, 1987, the equivalent of eight years of land surveying experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board, provided that all experience is completed prior to April 3, 2029 and provided that each full year of college study in engineering or land

surveying in a program approved by the department for professional licensure purposes or a substantially equivalent program, as determined by the department upon the recommendation of the State Board, may be accepted in lieu of one year of such experience to a maximum of four years.

3. Section 68.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, to read as follows:

Section 68.6. Licensing examinations for land surveying

(a) An applicant for admission to the fundamentals of surveying [licensure] examination [in land surveying] shall: [have satisfied the professional study requirements set forth in section 68.4 of this Part, except that an applicant for certification as an intern land surveyor may be admitted to Part 1 of the examination when such applicant is within 20 semester hours of completion of the requirements for a bachelor's degree in land surveying or the equivalent approved by the department for professional licensure purposes.]

(1) be within 20 credits of graduation from a bachelor's degree program registered as leading to licensure in land surveying pursuant to section 52.49 of this Title, or accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or a bachelor's degree program that is substantially equivalent to such a registered or accredited program as determined by department as recommended by the State Board; or

(2) hold a bachelor's degree in engineering, math, or a related science or their substantial equivalent with 15 credits of surveying as set forth in section 52.49 of this Title and have completed one year of experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(3) hold an associate's degree in surveying accredited by an acceptable accrediting agency, or an associate's degree program that is substantially equivalent to such accredited program as determined by the department and have completed two and a half years of experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; or

(4) hold an associate's degree in engineering, math, or related science or their substantial equivalent with 15 credits of surveying as set forth in section 52.49 of this Title and have completed three years of experience acceptable to the department as recommended by the State Board; and

(b) An applicant for admission to the principles and practice of surveying and the New York State jurisdictional surveying examinations shall:

(1) have completed the education and experience requirements set forth in section 68.4 of this Title.

[(b)](c) Content. The examination shall consist of:

(1) Part 1 - Fundamentals of [Land] Surveying: mathematics, physics, English, surveying, property surveys and descriptions, vertical curves, state plane coordinate calculations, economic analysis; and

(2) Part 2 - Principles and Practice of [Land] Surveying: principles of profession (legal, technical, standards of professional conduct), property surveys, written instruments, monumentations, real property, field survey procedures, property survey descriptions, subdivision planning and design, deed descriptions and conveyancing, surveying law, geodetic surveying, hydrographic surveying; and

(3) Part 3 - Jurisdictional Examination, Surveying in New York State: examination in the practical and legal aspects of land surveying pertinent to New York State, the scope and content of which shall be determined by the State Board.

[(c)](d) After February 14, 1975, Fundamentals of Land Surveying, Part 1, replaces Fundamentals of Land Surveying, Mathematics; Principles and Practice of Land Surveying, Part 2, replaces Principles and Practice of Land Surveying, Surveying.

(1) Candidates who have established credit prior to February 14, 1975 for the mathematics part of the examination shall be examined in Part 2 and Part 3.

(2) Candidates who have established credit prior to February 14, 1975 for the surveying part of the examination shall be examined in Part 1 and Part 3.

(3) The grade retention provisions of section 59.5(f) of this Title shall not be applicable to land surveying examinations.

[(d)](e) Passing grade. The passing grade for each of the parts of the surveying examination taken prior to October 1, 1984 is 75.0; for parts taken on or after October 1, 1984, the passing grade shall be 70.0. Except for the Jurisdictional Examination, scores for the licensing examinations shall be reported on a pass/fail basis.

[(e)](f) Review and rescoring of examinations shall be conducted in accordance with section 59.5(g) of this Title.

Attachment B

ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Since publication of the Notice of the Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rule Making in the State Register on March 31, 2021, the State Education Department received the following comment on the proposed amendment.

1. COMMENT: A comment was submitted by the President of the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors (“NYSAPLS”) on behalf of the organization. The comment expressed support for phasing out the all-experience pathway to licensure as a land surveyor in New York state. The comment further noted the support provided to the Department by NYSAPLS, which included information about coursework and curriculum for the education pathway to licensure as a land surveyor.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: The Department appreciates the supportive comments as it works to both protect the public and provide greater access to land surveying services to New Yorkers. Since the comment is supportive, no changes to the proposed rule are necessary.