

House Bill No. 23-E

An act relating to engineering; amending s. 471.003, F.S.; exempting certain persons in the defense, space, and aerospace industries from licensure under ch. 471, F.S.; amending s. 471.005, F.S.; defining the terms “space or aerospace company” and “defense company”; amending s. 471.031, F.S.; clarifying that certain persons who are exempt from licensure may practice engineering; clarifying which professional titles such exempt persons may use; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (2) of section 471.003, Florida Statutes, to read:

471.003 Qualifications for practice; exemptions.—

(2) The following persons are not required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter as a licensed engineer:

(j) Any defense, space, or aerospace company, whether a sole proprietorship, firm, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, joint stock association, corporation, or other business entity, subsidiary, or affiliate, or any employee, contract worker, subcontractor, or independent contractor of the defense, space, or aerospace company who provides engineering for aircraft, space launch vehicles, launch services, satellites, satellite services, or other defense, space, or aerospace-related product or services, or components thereof.

Section 2. Subsections (12) and (13) are added to section 471.005, Florida Statutes, to read:

471.005 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

(12) “Space or aerospace company” means any business entity concerned with the design, manufacture, or support of aircraft, rockets, missiles, spacecraft, satellites, space vehicles, space stations, space facilities, or components thereof, and equipment, systems, facilities, simulators, programs, products, services, and activities related thereto.

(13) “Defense company” means any business entity that holds a valid Department of Defense contract or any business entity that is a subcontractor under a valid Department of Defense contract. The term includes any business entity that holds valid contracts or subcontracts for products or services for military use under prime contracts with the United States Department of Defense, the United States Department of State, or the United States Coast Guard.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 471.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

471.031 Prohibitions; penalties.—

(1) A person may not:

(a) Practice engineering unless the person is licensed or exempt from licensure under this chapter.;

(b) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2., use the name or title “professional engineer” or any other title, designation, words, letters, abbreviations, or device tending to indicate that such person holds an active license as an engineer when the person is not licensed under this chapter, including, but not limited to, the following titles: “agricultural engineer,” “air-conditioning engineer,” “architectural engineer,” “building engineer,” “chemical engineer,” “civil engineer,” “control systems engineer,” “electrical engineer,” “environmental engineer,” “fire protection engineer,” “industrial engineer,” “manufacturing engineer,” “mechanical engineer,” “metallurgical engineer,” “mining engineer,” “minerals engineer,” “marine engineer,” “nuclear engineer,” “petroleum engineer,” “plumbing engineer,” “structural engineer,” “transportation engineer,” “software engineer,” “computer hardware engineer,” or “systems engineer.”;

2. Any person who is exempt from licensure under s. 471.003(2)(j) may use the title or personnel classification of “engineer” in the scope of his or her work under that exemption if the title does not include or connote the term “professional engineer,” “registered engineer,” “licensed engineer,” “registered professional engineer,” or “licensed professional engineer.”

(c) Present as his or her own the license of another.;

(d) Give false or forged evidence to the board or a member thereof.;

(e) Use or attempt to use a license that has been suspended, revoked, or placed on inactive or delinquent status.;

(f) Employ nonexempt unlicensed persons to practice engineering.;

(g) Conceal information relative to violations of this chapter.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor November 12, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State November 12, 2003.