Legislators returned to Raleigh on Monday following the 4th of July recess. Budget negotiations will begin in earnest as conferees are appointed from each chamber to negotiate.

There are still a number of bills eligible for consideration that have passed one chamber but are waiting on action in the other. Some of these bills will move on their own, while others may be added to larger bill packages, and some will remain on hold until the short session in 2016 or indefinitely.

We’d like to highlight one such bill that Representatives Dean Arp, Rick Catlin, and Chris Millis, all PEs, filed on behalf of NCBELS: House Bill 742: Clarify PE Licensure. Many of you have heard about this bill through NCBELS, NCEES, or at the PENC Summer Conference in June. This bill passed the NC House 116-0 on April 27th and is currently held in the NC Senate Rules Committee.

The current process for PE licensure is to pass the FE exam, graduate from college, have an additional four years of progressive engineering experience, then pass the PE exam. The NCEES National Model Law was changed in 2013 to remove the word “additional” in order to decouple experience from the exam.

The new language in the national model law says that in order to become a PE, you must pass the FE and PE, graduate from college, have four years of progressive engineering experience.

House Bill 742 eliminates the need to wait four years to take the PE exam and an applicant may take the PE exam any time after passing the FE and graduating college. The bill still includes a minimum of four years of progressive engineering experience before becoming a licensed PE.

House Bill 742 also cleans up the language in the PE application process but no other changes have been discussed. If the law passes, the changes will go into effect for the Spring 2016 exam administration.

PENC is currently reviewing the language in the bill. If you would like to have input on this, please contact PENC’s Ethics Action Group.

If you’d like to read about what other states are doing, an article on this topic appeared in NSPE’s PE Magazine in 2013: http://www.nspe.org/resources/pe-magazine/december-2013/matter-timing.

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