



**MARYLAND SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**  
A State Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

**Statement of  
William K. Ryan, M.S., P.E.  
President, MDSPE  
Regarding  
House Bill 80 - State Board for Professional Engineers**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee. I am William K. Ryan, and I am here today to represent the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers, of which I am President.

MDSPE is the only organization representing the interests of more than 15,000 Professional Engineers licensed by the State of Maryland. Our membership represents all engineering disciplines and employment sectors of Professional Engineers in Maryland.

In concept, we support House Bill 80 requiring a demonstration of continuing professional competency for Professional Engineers.

Our support is not the result of glaring mistakes made by Maryland Professional Engineers or growing signs of incompetency.

Quite the contrary. We reluctantly support this bill out of necessity, because the vast majority of other states now require a demonstration of continuing professional competency.

In our current environment, most professional engineers are licensed in multiple states.

Maintaining reciprocal license in other states requires meeting CPC requirements in those states.

Not having the CPC requirement in Maryland often means having to go out of state to take the required courses.

This can be costly and inconvenient.

Recent passage of legislation in Virginia and Pennsylvania is exasperating this problem.

Pennsylvania Professional Engineers asked for the requirement rather as self-defense against a burdensome New York State requirement.

Virginia Professional Engineers asked for the requirement to make it easier, less expensive and more convenient to meet North Carolina and West Virginia requirements.

We have thousands of Maryland resident Professional Engineers who have licenses in Virginia and Pennsylvania, and we are asking for the requirement to make it easier, less expensive and more convenient to Professional Engineers to meet requirements in those states.

Support within our profession is not universal. You are likely to hear objections.

We are supporting House Bill 80 giving the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers the authority to set these regulations with the understanding that they will craft a regulation that will permit compliance with minimum expense and inconvenience.

We have confidence that this Board will act responsibly in developing the regulation, and we have pledged to work closely with them in this endeavor. However, we are asking that a Continuing Professional Competency Task Force be established to draft the regulation. This Task Force would include members of the Board and representatives of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers.

We also support fully the provisions in House Bill 80 establishing the Retired Status License.

We would like to offer one friendly amendment to the Bill, which would delay each implementation date in Section (F) by one year in order to give adequate time to draft the regulation properly and give licencees more time to prepare to meet the requirements.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **Maryland Society of Professional Engineers**

William K. Ryan, M.S., P.E.  
President  
19 Hamill Rd., Unit E.  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
Phone 410-675-8967  
Fax 410-522-6947  
E-mail: mdspe@comcast.net

### **Public Sector Consulting Group**

Christopher Costello  
6400 Baltimore National Pike #102  
Baltimore, MD 21228-3915  
Telephone 410-947-4726  
Fax 410-947-5478  
E-mail: