

History and Background of Professional Licensing in the United States

by

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Great Chicago Fire 1873



Professional Licensing

- Architects (Illinois) 1897
- Professional Engineers
(Wyoming) 1907 (Louisiana) 1908
- Structural Engineers
(Illinois) 1915

DEFINITIONS

“License”

(Black’s Law Dictionary)

Life Safety

- ↻ Air conditioning – No
- ↻ Lighting – No
- ↻ Structural – Yes

Title Act

- ↪ Any licensed engineer can do structural

Practice Act

- ↪ Buildings (Architectural)
- ↪ Bridges
- ↪ Other structures

Practice Act

- Professional engineer cannot do structural

Structural Engineers Cannot Do

- ↪ Electrical
- ↪ Civil
- ↪ Mechanical
- ↪ Other P.E.

Structural Licensing

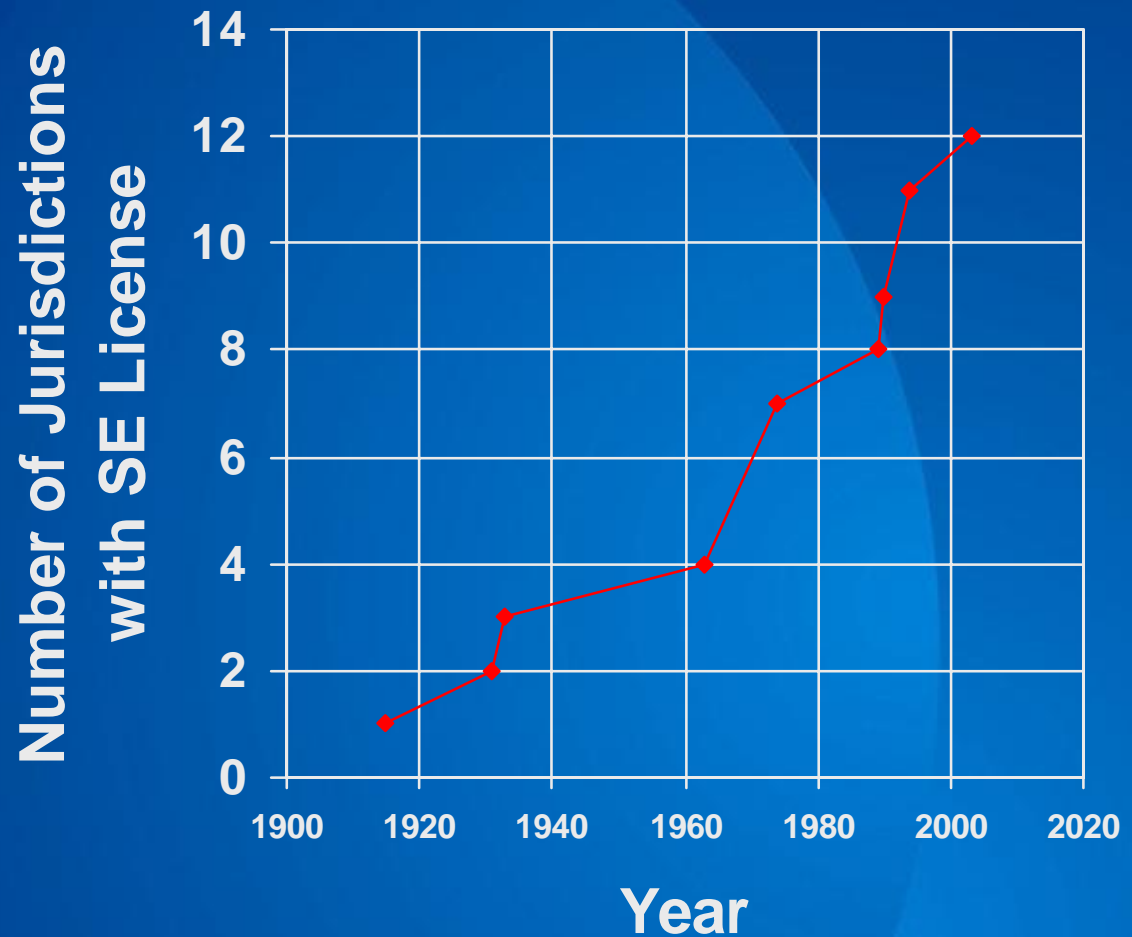
Today 22% of states,

Representing approximately 30% of
licensed engineers

Have an SE License

Trends in SE Licensing

- ↷ Illinois – 1915
- ↷ California – 1931
- ↷ Hawaii – 1933
- ↷ Washington – 1963
- ↷ Nevada – 1974
- ↷ Oregon – 1974
- ↷ Guam – 1974
- ↷ Idaho – 1989
- ↷ Arizona – 1990
- ↷ Nebraska – 1994
- ↷ Utah – 1994
- ↷ Louisiana – 2003
- ↷ Northern Mariana Islands (?)



Structural Title Acts

- ↷ California
- ↷ Arizona
- ↷ Nevada
- ↷ Guam
- ↷ Idaho
- ↷ Louisiana
- ↷ Nebraska
- ↷ Northern Mariana Islands

Structural Practice Acts

- ↷ Illinois
- ↷ Hawaii
- ↷ Oregon*
- ↷ Washington*
- ↷ Utah*

*Some exemptions

Requirements

- ↪ Education
 - B.S. Degree (Min.)
- ↪ Experience
 - Four Years (Min.)
- ↪ Examination
 - Twenty-Four Hours (Min.)

State Board Makeup

- ↪ Licensed Engineers
- ↪ Public Member(s)
- ↪ Staff
- ↪ Investigators

National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors

- ↪ Member boards (67)
- ↪ Write exams
- ↪ Write model laws
- ↪ Keep records
- ↪ Administer exams

NCEES Exams

- ↪ Based on PAKS
- ↪ Written By Licensed Engineers
- ↪ Valid

Advantages of Structural License

- ↪ Force of Law
- ↪ State Administers
- ↪ State Enforces

Enforcement

- ↪ Building Departments
- ↪ Owners
- ↪ State Attorney Generals

New Education Requirements

- ↪ Effective 2015
 - B.S. in Engineering
 - PLUS
 - 30 Semester Hours
 - Applies to New Graduates Only

Recommendations

1. Structural Practice Act
2. Education, B.S. in Structures
3. Experience, Four Years
4. Examination, 24 hr. min.
5. No State-Specific Exams
6. Grandfather

Summary

- ↪ Licensing Started 1897
- ↪ Requires:
 - Education
 - Experience
 - Examination

Summary

- ↪ Licensing is best solution
- ↪ Protect public
- ↪ Title Act better than not
- ↪ Practice Act best