



Press Release

Dr. Haraburda Testifies Before the Job Creation Committee

Indianapolis, Ind. (January 15, 2015) – Scott S. Haraburda, PhD, PE, testified about the importance of professional engineering to the Job Creation Committee (JCC) in the Indiana Government Center South Building in Indianapolis. This committee was established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2014 to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of all professional licenses regulated by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA).

The IPLA is an umbrella agency for 38 boards, commissions and committees, including licensing bodies such as the Medical Licensing Board and the Indiana Real Estate Commission. IPLA's boards regulate over 70 professional licenses with approximately 450,000 active licensed professionals that includes but is not limited to physicians, real estate brokers, pharmacists, nurses, accountants, dentists, cosmetologists, veterinarians and engineers. Nearly one in every seven working Indiana resident is currently licensed by this state agency.

Committee Chairman Nicholas Rhoad, who is also the executive director of IPLA, said the panel's work will be important to Indiana's more than 115,000 small businesses that account for nearly half of the state's jobs.

"We need to make sure we strike the proper balance between public safety and burdensome regulatory practices so that Indiana's economy can flourish and citizens can prosper," he said.

Over the next five years, the committee will assess a host of issues related to Indiana's regulated occupations and send recommendations to lawmakers and the governor's office, including whether some of the state's professional licenses should be eliminated or combined into a single license.

The committee also will assess the cost of administering and renewing licenses, permits and certifications and whether any of the 38 boards should be combined or eliminated.

Since 2002, Indiana has created more than 40 new professional requirements, including 20 new licensed occupations, while eliminating only three licensure requirements and regulatory mandates, said Nick Goodwin, the IPLA's spokesman.

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Rhoad said the committee will ask practitioners, industry leaders and regulators in the years ahead to determine whether Indiana is providing the proper levels of customer service to professionals and the proper level of protections to Indiana consumers - and whether there's a better way to do that.

"What we're really trying to find out is what is that right level of regulation and what is the appropriate way to do it with the public's resources," he said.

Other members of the committee include: Chad Timmerman from the Office of Management and Budget, Allen Pope from the Attorney General's Office (nonvoting member), Barbara Quandt with NFIB (nonvoting member), Stefanie Krevda (consumer member), Timothy Reed (representative from licensed field), Richard Wilson (consumer member) and John Wright (representative from licensed field).

As its president, Dr. Haraburda made a presentation on the mission and workings of the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) and provided a brief explanation about the profession of engineering. He fielded questions and concerns from the committee on the process of licensure, the state's role in the licensing process, how that compares to other states, the current status of educating, training, testing and licensing of engineers and committee members potential options for future implementation that would assist the licensing board with their obligations to license engineers.

Since June 4, 1937, the ISPE has actively promoted and defended the professional interests of all engineering professionals throughout the State of Indiana, including its more than 13,000 licensed professional engineers. This organization helps in protecting the public, supporting engineering ethical conduct and professionalism, along with service to the public. Dr. Haraburda has been president of this society since July 2014.