



SUNSET REVIEWS

A sunset review is a periodic evaluation of a licensing board's processes and guiding regulations, which can result in the discontinuation of a licensing board. When use well, it can be a useful tool for identifying duplicity or waste. However, sunset review legislation can restrict or even take steps to eliminate necessary licensure laws and regulations. Since its founding, the National Society of Professional Engineers has sought to strengthen PE licensure laws and regulations for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. NSPE advocates for a responsible approach to sunset reviews, as they can enable streamlining of licensing processes.

Key Points

- As of May 2019, 29 states have existing sunset review laws; 14 clearly include the engineering board as undergoing review.
 - NSPE's state-by-state report, *Sunset Review of Engineering Licensing Boards*, provides information on the breadth and scope of sunset review legislation across the country.
- Professional engineers are not always directly or specifically targeted in the sunset review process, but engineering licensing boards are often included in the boards that undergo sunset review, so PEs are thereby placed at risk.
- Sunset reviews typically result in recommendations to remove what are considered unnecessary or overly burdensome licensing requirements, as well as a recommendation for the continuation of the board.
- An effective sunset review does not assume market competition is sufficient to protect the public.
 - Market competition is the least restrictive form of regulation, which assumes that workers and companies will protect and promote public safety, simply because they could lose business if they do not.

Action Items

- Advocate for reasonable sunset review legislation that
 - Eliminates any undue burdens without weakening the licensure system;
 - Includes a reasonable timeframe for boards to review and report out their findings, based on available staff and funding;
 - Does not assume market competition is sufficient to protect the public.