

## Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation

Responsive. Innovative. Transparent. Efficient.



### Division of Professional Regulation: *Design Unit*

The Design Unit of the Division of Professional Regulation is responsible for maintaining the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. Each Profession is governed by its respective Act that merits the confidence of the public, and that only qualified persons shall be authorized to engage in the practice of that profession in the State of Illinois.

#### The Design Unit oversees Licenses and Registration for:

- ◆ Architecture
- ◆ Professional Land Surveying
- ◆ Professional Engineering
- ◆ Structural Engineering
- ◆ Professional Design Firm

#### *Did you know?*

Illinois licenses Professional Engineers and Structural Engineers separately. There is no overlap of licensure. Each profession has separate and distinct requirements for education, examination and experience.

A Professional Engineer in Illinois cannot offer or perform any Structural Engineering services and a Structural Engineer can only offer Structural Engineering services.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Point of Interest
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- Be a Board Member
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## e-print your license.

Secretary Bryan A. Schneider of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) is pleased to announce that paperless licensing and renewals have now been implemented for the professions licensed and regulated by the Divisions of Real Estate and Professional Regulation.

The transition away from paper-based renewals and licenses means that regulated professionals will now be able to renew their license quickly and easily online, and be provided proof of licensure through email and IDFPR's License Lookup application. The move to paperless technology is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to modernize the state's regulatory agency and will save the state nearly \$3 million in postage, paper and printing costs over the next five years.

"By enacting a paperless renewal process and shifting to an electronic verification of licensure, we increase efficiency, reduce costs, and provide an overall better experience for our licensed professionals," said Bryan A. Schneider, IDFPR Secretary. "Whereas paper-based renewals intermittently experienced delays during peak renewal periods, the online license renewal streamlines that process by eliminating the need to, essentially, push paper. Additionally, by providing electronic verification of a license through our website, we are able to provide the most up-to-date information available."

Effective immediately, submission of renewals for professionals should be completed online via [IDFPR's website](#). Once a renewal is successfully processed, licensees will receive an email that may be used as proof of licensure. Proof of licensure may also be

found via [IDFPR's License Lookup](#). In the near future, licensees will be provided access to a digital, printable copy of their license.

In lieu of the paper postcard reminder, IDFPR has also implemented an electronic license reminder notification process for all professions that are not legally required to receive paper notifications. Licensees that had relied upon the renewal postcard PIN notification for renewing their licenses or for employee E-Batch renewal, may access that information via the [license renewal webpage](#) located at IDFPR's website. Licensees will be prompted to provide additional information for security authentication.

Licensees are strongly encouraged to visit [IDFPR's online address change webpage](#) to provide a current email address and ensure contact information is up-to-date and accurate.

### POINT OF INTEREST

#### Membership Fees

The Department has been in contact with NCARB and NCEES regarding the outstanding membership dues. At the Department's request, both groups are currently pursuing payment through the vendor support initiative. Please check the Department's website for more updates regarding this in the coming weeks.

### FILE A COMPLAINT ONLINE

Help us protect the public.

Complaints against any individual or entity regulated by the **Division of Professional Regulation** may be filed by contacting the Complaint Intake Unit.

To file a complaint, please use:

[Online Complaint Form](#)

Have Questions?

Call the Complaint Intake Unit at **312.814.6910**.



## Design Profession Trivia



Q: What year was the first Architect Act enacted in Illinois?

A: 1897 and was the first licensing law in the nation.

The licensure requirement at that time was:

On July 1, 1897, any person who was 21 years old and made payment of the \$15 fee to take examination. In addition, any person who showed by affidavit to have been engaged in the practice of architecture on July 1, 1897 was entitled to a license without examination; provided that the application was made within 6 months after passage of the Act.

# DESIGN BOARD SPOTLIGHT:



## ARCHITECTURE

Big changes are upon us.

The Illinois Architecture Licensing Board is advisory to the Department and makes recommendations to the Director regarding the qualifications of applicants, advising on disciplinary matters that directly impact Architecture licensure, advises the Department on proposed statutory language in the Act and Administrative Rules as well as providing expert advice and knowledge on professional conduct and performance.

As of **January 1, 2016**, statutory language was implemented to change from acceptance of a Pre-Professional Architectural degree to only accepting a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Accredited Professional Degree or NAAB-ESSA equivalent for initial licensure. The Department will continue to accept applications from applicants with a Pre-Professional Architectural Degree for licensure by Endorsement from other States, who were licensed prior to January 1, 2016, provided that the IDP meet Illinois requirements and all other requirements are fulfilled. The current requirements are available here: [Architecture Rules](#)

In 2015, NCARB reduced the IDP requirements to only the core requirements. Illinois accepts the core requirements for those with a NAAB accredited Professional Degree in Architecture. Sometime in late 2016, NCARB will unveil the Architectural Registration Exam (ARE) 5.0 Examination which will replace the ARE 4.0 completely by June 30, 2018. Changes in the implementation of the ARE 5.0 will include that the examination divisions are reduced to a total of six portions and the elimination of vignettes. NCARB will also be updating the IDP requirements to be aligned with the ARE divisions in the future. Illinois has agreed to recognize the changes and will propose amendments to the Administrative Rules to reflect the changes after NCARB has implemented them. For more information, visit the NCARB website at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org).



### Want to serve on a Board?

The office of citizen is the highest office in the land. One of the best ways to participate in our democracy is by serving on a state board, commission or committee.

These groups advise Illinois' state agencies and organizations on a wide range of issues that affect public policy and welfare.

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### Current Board Openings:

**Professional Engineering Board**  
Licensed Member

### Links:

[Board Member Application Form](#)

[State of Illinois Appointments](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions available online!

To assist potential candidates for examinations and/or licensure, the Department has created an F.A.Q. document for each design profession to address the most common questions the Department receives.

- ◆ **For Architecture Questions:** click [here](#)
- ◆ **For Professional Land Surveyor Questions:** click [here](#)
- ◆ **For Professional Engineering Questions:** click [here](#)
- ◆ **For Structural Engineering Questions:** click [here](#)



## Continuing Education

Visit the following sites for resources on available Continuing Education courses for your renewal requirements.

### Architecture

[www.aiail.org](http://www.aiail.org)  
[www.alatoday.org](http://www.alatoday.org)

### Professional Land Surveyor

[www.iplsa.org](http://www.iplsa.org)

### Professional Engineering

[www.illinoisengineer.com](http://www.illinoisengineer.com)

### Structural Engineering

[www.seaoi.org](http://www.seaoi.org)

**DESIGN** Times

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## Upcoming Board Meetings

We invite the public to attend the open sessions of our Board Meetings to gain a better understanding of what issues are prevalent in the respective professions.

### MAY

Architect Board, Chicago Office - 05/26/2016

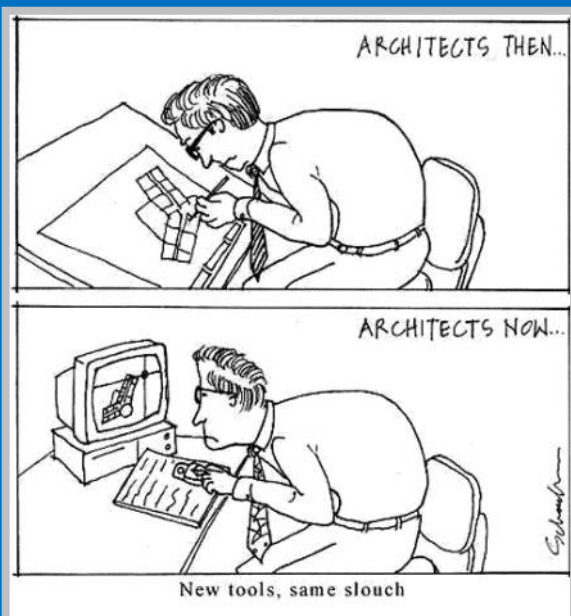
### JUNE

Structural Engineering Board, Springfield Office - 06/14/2016

Professional Engineering Board, Springfield Office - 06/15/2016

Professional Land Surveyor Board, Springfield Office - 06/16/2016

## Laugh Out Loud



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