

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020 | TUESDAY

CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

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EPISODE 46 - THREATS TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

The term Licensure refers to a restricted practice that requires individuals to have an official license granted by a licensing board before performing a certain profession or activity. Thus, depending on the type of law and the profession in study, the practice of this activity without a valid license may incur civil and criminal penalties.

However, it's more than common for lawmakers to categorize highly educated and trained PEs with other professionals in totally different areas of expertise as an attempt to simplify the bureaucracy over occupational licenses. This is what the [National Society of Professional Engineers \(NSPE\)](#) defines as threats to your PE License: The deregulation of your occupation as a professional engineer.

As an example, the [NSPE reports](#) that an association of state lawmakers, called American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), recommended the elimination of the PE license in Indiana.

This attempt, however, as a result of the efforts made by the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers and the NSPE itself, failed and the ALEC gave up on its recommendation to eliminate the necessity of the PE license. Even though it didn't succeed, many of the same type of recommendations were made in many states in the country, from Iowa to Minnesota.

Given that many engineers are not aware of these legislations, and the consequences and implications that come with them, the NSPE created an [interactive map](#) in which individuals can check out both the states that currently have active threats being discussed, as well as those states that have no threats reported, in addition to providing several articles for anyone to get to know this legal aspect a bit more.

Even though civil engineers are way more interested in solving problems by making use of their technical and detailed thinking, the legislation aspect cannot be totally neglected.