



LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO

*Office of Legislative Services*

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 138 (H.B. 3323) of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to amend Section 5 of Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997, known as the "Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico Act," to include one (1) Computer Engineer on the Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico, attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with the purpose of giving these engineering professionals; etc.,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 4<sup>th</sup> of December of 2003.

Elba Rosa Rodriguez-Fuentes  
Director

(H. B. 3323)

(No. 138)

(Approved July 25, 2000)

**AN ACT**

To amend Section 5 of Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997, known as the "Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico Act," to include one (1) Computer Engineer on the Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico, attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, with the purpose of giving these engineering professionals; representation on said board and, from that Board, to create two Boards of Examiners which shall be named, on one hand, the Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors and, on the other, the Board of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects, with the purpose of improving the efficiency of these bodies, and to add a Section 5-A to Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997, known as the "Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico Act," in order to create an Evaluating Committee for Professional Revalidation Examinations, for the drafting and administration of a professional revalidation examination for Computer Engineers.

**STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The development of the cities of the modern world depends to a great extent on the evolution of the field of technology, making it imperative from time to time to harmonize the current laws to the reality of that society and adopt the mechanisms needed for the State to adequately exercise its functions of regulating and protecting. Only thus can the Government of Puerto Rico efficiently comply with its public function of promoting the socioeconomic development of the People.

The function of Computer Engineers is to plan the design of the computers using as a starting point in their work, the problems and needs of the individual and of nature.

More than a decade ago, a great interest and need for specialists in the field of computer engineering emerged. This led to the creation of university-level programs directed at earning a degree in Computer Engineering, and said program began in the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus, in 1981. Hundreds of persons have graduated from this program and continue to do so, this program being the one with the highest admission index of the Public University System of Puerto Rico.

In spite of having been approved and accredited by the Council on Higher Education of Puerto Rico, there is no professional revalidation examination for these graduate engineers.

It is very important to solve this situation due to the accelerated development of technology in our country and the world. The immediate need for professionals specialized in this field is evident, and constitutes an area of priority in order to make viable the social and economic development of Puerto Rico. It is a matter of public knowledge that the development of the field of Science and Technology is considered a priority in the present and future projects of our country.

This measure proposes to attach Computer Engineers to the Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, as well as to define the requirements to practice this profession in Puerto Rico. Thus, Computer Engineers will be given the opportunity and the place they deserve in the Board of Examiners; thus providing the securing of a license and the guarantee that the persons who aspire to exercise the profession have

the academic preparation and the knowledge needed to offer quality services.

The Division of Computer Engineers and Telematics of the College of Engineers and Surveyors deems that disregarding this need goes against the security of our people, as well as the deterioration of the Engineering profession. Since the field of computer science technology and telecommunications is an area of great impact today, and the trend of the future, it is necessary to continue establishing the means for measuring the quality and capability of professionals. The development of our Island depends on them.

The professional requirements for these specialists must be established in order to measure the quality of the professionals who serve our country. This shall be achieved with the creation of their professional revalidation examination and established their equality with the rest of the engineering specializations. Due legislation and the appropriation of funds to create the revalidation examination are needed for this, and for the study of the situation of these thousands of professionals, who are so needed at this time and for the future.

The group of amendments proposed herein intends to continue the continuous improvement of the Law in view of the experiences had in other states, and to harmonize its provisions with the Law that governs the Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture professions, in order to guarantee the quality and requirements that our people and the professionals in these areas deserve.

Likewise, the Legislature deems it is necessary to separate the professions that compose the Board of Examiners created by Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997, and create two Boards of Examiners, of which one shall

be named, the Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors and, the other, the Board of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects, with the purpose of improving the efficiency of these bodies and making them more responsive to the professions that they bring together. Since engineering and architecture are distinguishable professions, it is convenient for two independent bodies to be established to protect the best interests of each group of professionals.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.- Section 5 of Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997 is hereby amended, to read as follows:

“Section 5.- Board of Examiners.

The Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors and the Board of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects are hereby created, which shall be attached to the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors shall be constituted by nine (9) members, of whom two (2) shall be civil engineers, one (1) a mechanical engineer, one (1) an electrical engineer, one (1) an industrial engineer, one (1) a chemical engineer, one (1) computer engineer, and two (2) surveyors. The Board of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects shall be constituted by two (2) architects, two (2) landscape architects, and one (1) representative of the public interest who does not belong to the abovementioned professions, but who possesses the necessary qualities, interests, and dedication to make decisions that will benefit the professions they represent. The members of the Boards shall be appointed by the Governor of Puerto Rico with the advice and consent of the Senate of Puerto Rico. The corresponding professional colleges representing

the professionals regulated by this Act may advise the Governor of Puerto Rico in the selection of the members that shall make up the Boards. These must be duly licensed to practice their respective professions in Puerto Rico and be active members of their respective professional associations. In addition they must have actively practiced their profession as a licensed engineer, architect, surveyor or landscape architect, as the case may be, for a period of not less than seven (7) years and, for at least three (3) of those years, they must have been directly in charge of supervising or having direct or primary responsibility for engineering, architectural, landscape architecture or surveying projects or works, as the case may be.”

Section 2.- Section 5-A is added to Act No. 185 of December 26, 1997, to read as follows:

“The Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors shall create a Professional Revalidation Evaluating Committee, made up of members of its Board of Examiners for the drafting of a Professional Revalidation for Computer Engineers.

Said Committee shall submit to the Board of Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors, where there shall be a Computer Engineer, a Professional Revalidation bill for Computer Engineers no later than six (6) months after this Act becomes effective, for evaluation and future administration. Provided, that those Computer Engineers who have already graduated shall be granted the license, if they can prove that they have five (5) years or more of experience and that they have passed the general revalidation examination.”

Section 3.- Sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the Board of Examiners of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico shall cease its functions and the Board of Examiners of

Engineers and Surveyors and the Board of Examiners of Architects and Landscape Architects shall be constituted, respectively. The members of the original Board shall become part of the new Boards and the new members shall be designated as provided by this Act.

Section 4.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.