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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE

IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM G-50  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009  
9:30 A.M.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING ON  
HB-975, THE ENGINEER, LAND SURVEYOR, AND  
GEOLOGIST REGISTRATION LAW  
AND  
HB-587, PN-644, REQUIRING CERTIFICATION  
FOR A GEOLOGIST-IN-TRAINING

BEFORE:

- HONORABLE MICHAEL P. MCGEEHAN, CHAIRMAN
- HONORABLE WILLIAM F. ADOLPH, JR.
- HONORABLE HARRY READSHAW
- HONORABLE CHERELLE L. PARKER
- HONORABLE CRAIG A. DALLY
- HONORABLE JARET GIBBONS
- HONORABLE KEITH GILLESPIE
- HONORABLE NEAL P. GOODMAN

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1 (CONT'D)

2

HONORABLE SUSAN C. HELM  
3 HONORABLE NICK KOTIK  
HONORABLE T. MARK MUSTIO  
4 HONORABLE TONY J. PAYTON, JR.  
HONORABLE JOSEPH A. PETRARCA  
5 HONORABLE MARIO M. SCAVELLO  
HONORABLE TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY  
6 HONORABLE JAMES WANSACZ  
HONORABLE DON WALKO

7

8

9 ALSO PRESENT:

10 MARLENE TREMMEL, MAJORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAYNE CRAWFORD, MINORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
11 DIANNE L. NICHOLS, ESQUIRE, LEGAL COUNSEL  
KRISTIN MILLER, COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE  
12 ASSISTANT

13

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BRENDA S. HAMILTON, RPR  
REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Good morning.

The hour of 9:30 having arrived, I'm going to convene this meeting of the House Professional Licensure Committee.

Today we are holding this hearing on House Bill 975, the Engineer, Land Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Law; and House Bill 587 requiring certifications for geologists-in-training.

Before we begin, I'd like to remind the members present -- and there are several conflicting committee meetings so members will be arriving and leaving to attend those other obligations.

I'd like to begin by having the members introduce themselves starting with the back and Representative Gibbons.

REPRESENTATIVE GIBBONS: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Representative Jaret Gibbons from the 10th District, Lawrence, Beaver, and Butler Counties.

REPRESENTATIVE GOODMAN:

Representative Neal Goodman, Schuylkill

1 County.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MUSTIO:

3 Representative Mark Mustio, Allegheny County.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: Sue Helm,

5 Dauphin County, 104th District.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SOLOBAY: Tim Solobay

7 from the 48th District in Washington County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DALLY: Craig Dally,

9 138th, Northampton County.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PETRARCA: Joe

11 Petrarca, Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties.

12 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Mike McGeehan

13 from Philadelphia County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ADOLPH: Bill Adolph,

15 165th Legislative District from Delaware

16 County.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Mario

18 Scavello, 176th District, Monroe County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KOTIK : Good morning.

20 Nick Kotik, 145th Legislative District,

21 Allegheny County.

22 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very

23 much, members. I want to remind the members

24 that this is also being recorded on PCN as

25 well as an official -- an official record is

1 being taken as well.

2 We're going to begin by hearing  
3 testimony from no less a figure than the  
4 Republican chairman of the committee on his  
5 bill, House Bill 975, the Engineer, Land  
6 Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Law. I  
7 want to introduce Chairman Bill Adolph.

8 Mr. Chairman.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ADOLPH: I thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for this  
11 opportunity. I don't take a lot of pride in  
12 the authorship of this piece of legislation.

13 This is a model piece of legislation  
14 that I was asked to introduce by the  
15 professional engineers.

16 And just for way of background, two  
17 sessions ago the General Assembly passed Act  
18 170 of 2006 to amend the Engineer, Land  
19 Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Law,  
20 which became Act 367 of 1945, to establish a  
21 continuing education requirement which is 24  
22 hours every two-year cycle.

23 The specific continuing education  
24 language added in 2006 has caused the state  
25 board difficulty in reaching agreement on

1 implementing registration, and that is why I  
2 was asked to introduce this legislation.

3 The existing continuing education  
4 language requires the board to approve all  
5 courses, locations, instructors, and  
6 providers.

7 House Bill 975 establishes categories  
8 of continuing education that will satisfy the  
9 credit requirement and gives the board final  
10 approval authority. But it does not require  
11 the board to preapprove all courses and  
12 providers.

13 House Bill 975 is patterned after the  
14 model rules developed by the National Council  
15 of Engineers and National Council of Examiners  
16 for Engineering and Surveyors and will provide  
17 a more uniform approach to the continuing  
18 education requirement.

19 This approach will make reciprocity  
20 with other states easier and permit licensees  
21 more options on how to obtain their required  
22 credits.

23 So I -- from what I understand,  
24 there's going to be an amendment offered.  
25 We're going to be tweaking the -- the House

1 bill a little bit when it comes before the  
2 committee.

3 But any -- any question by any of the  
4 committee members, I'd be glad to answer them,  
5 but it's a pretty model legislation and I  
6 think it is something that is necessary and  
7 was asked by the -- the engineers if we could  
8 do it.

9 So I appreciate the opportunity to be  
10 the prime sponsor of this legislation. Thank  
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very  
13 much, Chairman Adolph.

14 Are there any questions for the  
15 Chairman?

16 Seeing none, thank you very much,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ADOLPH: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: And we'll  
20 obviously see to your recommendations to tweak  
21 this language and move this out as quickly as  
22 possible.

23 We've also been joined by  
24 Representative Payton, Representative Walko,  
25 and Representative Gillespie, and I want to

1 remind these members this is being broadcast  
2 on PCN.

3 Thank you again, Chairman Adolph.

4 I want to also recognize one of our  
5 fellow chairmen that's in attendance, and he's  
6 going to testify on House Bill 587 requiring  
7 certifications for a geologist-in-training.

8 When you're prepared, Chairman  
9 Markosek, no stranger to any members on this  
10 committee, and we welcome your testimony.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Thank you  
12 very much. Thanks for the invite,  
13 Mr. Chairman. Messrs. Chairmen maybe I should  
14 say.

15 It's good to be here and be back  
16 on -- in with Professional Licensure, which I  
17 served as vice chairman for many, many years.  
18 So I understand all the vagaries of what you  
19 go through on a daily basis here with this  
20 committee and it's a great committee.

21 But thank you for considering House  
22 Bill 587, which amends the Act of 1945, May  
23 23rd, 1945, known as the Engineer, Land  
24 Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Law, and  
25 the legislation was requested by

1 representatives from the Pennsylvania Chapter  
2 of the American Society of Civil Engineers  
3 last session, when they visited my office  
4 during Transportation Day, as a methodology of  
5 incorporating the concept of the national --  
6 national model of continuing education for the  
7 affected professions, which our  
8 engineers-in-training and land  
9 surveyors-in-training are currently required  
10 to register with the state registration  
11 board. However, geologists-in-training are  
12 not required to do so.

13 Current licensees must complete 24  
14 hours of continuing ed during each biennial  
15 renewal period.

16 The bill also specifies the value for  
17 each method of earning continuing education  
18 credits and allows the credits to be earned if  
19 relevant to professional practice in the  
20 following areas:

21 College courses;

22 Continuing ed courses;

23 Correspondence, televised videotapes,  
24 and other short courses;

25 Seminars, employer-sponsored courses,

1 workshops;

2 Teaching, presenting or instructing;

3 Authoring published papers, articles

4 or books;

5 Obtaining patents.

6 The state registration board would be  
7 required to accept continuing education  
8 credits earned in another jurisdiction. The  
9 licensee would be responsible for maintaining  
10 a log of continuing credits earned.

11 A licensee may be exempt from the  
12 continuing education requirements for  
13 temporary active duty or the armed forces or  
14 for physical disability, illness or other  
15 extenuating circumstances.

16 And a licensee must earn the required  
17 continuing education credits prior to  
18 returning to active practice.

19 Finally, it would be unlawful for any  
20 firm or practice to use the term engineer or  
21 engineering in its firm or corporate name  
22 unless the directing heads and employees of  
23 such firm or corporation are licensed and  
24 registered in conformity with this Act.

25 So with that, I appreciate the time

1 to speak here today and appreciate anything  
2 the committee does relative to the bill.

3 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very  
4 much, Chairman Markosek. Are you able to  
5 answer any questions that any members may  
6 have?

7 Are there any questions for Chairman  
8 Markosek?

9 Seeing none, we want to thank you  
10 again for putting this issue in front of us.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: I do want to  
13 inform you and Chairman Adolph, as part of the  
14 official record, a letter from Commissioner  
15 Basil Merenda from the Department of State,  
16 Bureau of Professional and Occupational  
17 Affairs, has been written in support of both  
18 of your bills. So I want that to be -- the  
19 members to understand that and that will be  
20 forwarded, if it hadn't been already, to your  
21 offices for your records

22 So I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
23 for your testimony.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Our next

1       testifier will be joined by a panel as well.  
2       And to speak on -- on these important measures  
3       is Michel Sadaka. He's the vice president of  
4       the Pennsylvania Society of Professional  
5       Engineers and president of Sadaka  
6       Corporation.

7               He's going to be joined as -- in the  
8       panel by John Wanner. He's the executive  
9       director of the PA Society of Professional  
10      Engineers.

11             Eric Flicker. He's the president of  
12      the Engineers Club of Philadelphia and CFO of  
13      Pennoni Associates.

14             Joined by Barry Hoffman, the board of  
15      directors for the American Society of Highway  
16      Engineers, Harrisburg Section and senior  
17      consultant for McCormick Taylor.

18             Also join -- joining them will be  
19      Greg Scott who is with the American Society of  
20      Civil Engineers. He's the senior project  
21      manager, Chester Engineers.

22             And, lastly, Andy Hill. He's the  
23      executor director of the American Council of  
24      Engineering Companies. He's also executive  
25      director of PA Society of Land Surveyors.

1 Good morning, gentlemen.

2 MR. WANNER: Good morning.

3 MR. SADAKA: Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN SADAKA: And, Mr. Sadaka, is  
5 this -- this is you?

6 MR. WANNER: Mr. Chairman, if I can,  
7 just make very, very brief remarks before I  
8 hand it over to Mr. Sadaka.

9 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Just for the  
10 information, state your name.

11 MR. WANNER: This is -- I am John  
12 Wanner, and I am executive director of the  
13 Pennsylvania Society of Professional  
14 Engineers.

15 And you've done a great job of  
16 already introducing the panel, which is what I  
17 was going to do, Mr. Chairman. You stole my  
18 thunder. But you did it better probably than  
19 I could of.

20 Just pointing out that today there  
21 are engineers from a number of different  
22 organizations in the Capitol. This issue is  
23 one of the primary focuses.

24 But I wanted to mention that in  
25 addition to the Pennsylvania Society of

1 Professional Engineers, the American Society  
2 of Civil Engineers, the American Society of  
3 Highway Engineers, the Engineers Club of  
4 Philadelphia, and the Institute of  
5 Transportation Engineers, the Mid-Atlantic  
6 section, are here today. And you may have  
7 visits from some of those -- from some of the  
8 members of those organizations today.

9 We are all of the same mind when it  
10 comes to this legislation. And so rather than  
11 each of us presenting separate testimony, we  
12 thought it would be, in the interest of time,  
13 to just have Mr. Sadaka present testimony,  
14 which we all agree with.

15 Before I turn it over to him, I just  
16 want to make one point. I've spent quite a  
17 few hours working with the chairs,  
18 professional staff, Marlene and Wayne and the  
19 attorneys, and it has been very, very  
20 fruitful, very thorough, and I wanted to thank  
21 you both and the staff themselves, too, for  
22 really helping us through this process.

23 We understand the amendment is going  
24 to be looked at and probably offered when the  
25 bill comes up in committee, and -- and we

1 fully support not only the language in it but  
2 the process which, you know, I can't say  
3 enough good things about the folks you've got  
4 handling these details for you.

5 With that, I will turn it over to  
6 Mr. Michel Sadaka who has our testimony.

7 MR. SADAKA: Good morning. I would  
8 like to thank Chairman McGeehan and the rest  
9 of the committee members for the opportunity  
10 to testify today.

11 You introduced me, but my name is  
12 Michel Sadaka, different spelling, so if you  
13 want it for the record. I am a vice president  
14 of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional  
15 Engineers.

16 PSPE has represented engineers for 75  
17 years. Our members come from every discipline  
18 of engineering and work in various sectors of  
19 society: Private practice, education,  
20 construction, industry and government.

21 As the spokesperson for various  
22 engineering and land surveying groups  
23 assembled here today, I urge your  
24 consideration and speedy passage of the  
25 legislation under discussion today.

1           We understand and support continuing  
2 education for licensed design professionals.  
3       The Commonwealth regulates who may offer these  
4 services in order to safeguard the public's  
5 health, safety, and welfare. Engineers and  
6 land surveyors need to stay current on a wide  
7 range of matters covering many different  
8 aspects of design.

9           While the underlying principles of  
10 mathematics do not change, other things do,  
11 including regulations, technology,  
12 construction techniques, products and  
13 environmental best practices.

14           Some of the examples of the areas in  
15 which continuing education would be needed:

16           Keeping up-to-date with the  
17 applicable codes, such as the Uniform  
18 Construction Code.

19           Staying current with green building  
20 technologies and design practices, like LEED  
21 certification approaches.

22           Applying developing technologies in  
23 areas of intelligent transportation systems  
24 and traffic management.

25           The major thrust of the bill before

1 the committee today is to make the continuing  
2 education requirements more flexible and more  
3 in line with what is required by other  
4 states.

5 The National Council of Examiners for  
6 Engineers and Surveying, NCEES, is a national  
7 nonprofit organization composed of engineering  
8 and surveying licensing boards, representing  
9 all states and U.S. territories.

10 NCEES develops, scores, and  
11 administers the examinations used for  
12 engineering and surveying licensure throughout  
13 the United States. NCEES is an accredited  
14 standards developer with the American National  
15 Standards Institute.

16 Because many engineers and surveyors  
17 are licensed in many jurisdictions, in  
18 multiple jurisdictions, uniformity of  
19 continuing education requirements among  
20 licensing jurisdictions is important to  
21 simplify the licensure renewal process and to  
22 facilitate the recognition of CE by multiple  
23 jurisdictions. NCEES encourages licensing  
24 boards to follow the NCEES Model Rules when  
25 adopting CE requirements.

1           The NCEES Model Rules provides  
2 standards and definitions aimed at  
3 establishing this uniformity. Standards such  
4 as:

5           What makes the definition of a CE  
6 credit, including the definition of a contact  
7 hour?

8           What is a qualifying college credit?  
9 Teaching credits.

10           Credit for published papers,  
11 articles, or books.

12           Active participation in professional  
13 and technical societies.

14           And patents.

15           Even though the continuing education  
16 section was added to the law in 2006, the  
17 regulation to implement the requirement has  
18 only recently been published in the  
19 Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment.

20           The CE requirements are expected to  
21 be enforced for the first time during the next  
22 licensing period which begins October 1st of  
23 this year. That means that a licensee would  
24 need to obtain the 24 continuing education  
25 credits during the licensing period running

1 from October '09 to September 2011.

2 We believe that passage of this  
3 legislation prior to October will resolve a  
4 great many issues as well as eliminate  
5 confusion for the license holders.

6 Some of these issues are such:

7 The current proposed regulations  
8 define the CE hour as 60 minutes of actual  
9 instruction. That is not in line with the  
10 NCEES guidelines that define the hour as 50  
11 minutes of instruction or presentation  
12 relevant to the professional practice, thus  
13 creating a major obstacle for comity and  
14 reciprocity of CE hours.

15 In the current regulations, there are  
16 no exemptions from the CE requirements for  
17 licensees who list their occupation as retired  
18 or inactive.

19 The NCEES guidelines allow for  
20 exemptions from the CE requirements for  
21 licensees who list their occupation as  
22 retired -- retired or inactive, provided that  
23 they are not in active practice.

24 In the current regulations, active  
25 participation in a professional and technical

1 society relevant to professional practice is  
2 not allowed as a continuing education credit.

3 The NCEES guidelines allow credit for  
4 the active participation in order to encourage  
5 peer contact as one way to stay abreast of  
6 current topics, issues, technical  
7 developments, ethical situations, and learning  
8 opportunities.

9 In conclusion, I would like once  
10 again to thank Chairmen McGeehan and Adolph  
11 and the rest of the committee members for the  
12 opportunity to testify today and let you know  
13 that all of our organizations are available to  
14 you as resources to answer any questions and  
15 to clarify any issue you might have regarding  
16 our position in support of this legislation.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very  
19 much, Mr. Sadaka.

20 I just have one question, and your  
21 testimony touched on it. Not only is the CE,  
22 continuing education, requirements a vastly  
23 accelerated change in engineering today but  
24 also for the uniformity aspect to be -- to  
25 bring Pennsylvania in line with other states

1 and the national standard.

2           Were you having difficulty doing  
3 that? Is Pennsylvania lagging behind other  
4 states as far as there -- and was there a  
5 problem over the horizon if we don't change  
6 the continuing education requirements?

7           MR. SADAKA: Well, there is. Because  
8 like an hour that would be accepted in Ohio  
9 would not be accepted in Pennsylvania.

10           So engineers that have licensure in  
11 more than one state will have the issue or the  
12 problem of not having the hours they earned  
13 for Pennsylvania -- well, the hours that they  
14 earn for Pennsylvania might be acceptable  
15 somewhere else but where they're earned  
16 somewhere else might not be acceptable here  
17 and that's not our standard and it would  
18 create conclusion.

19           We add to it that engineers that are  
20 not resident in Pennsylvania but are licensed  
21 in Pennsylvania and do work in Pennsylvania,  
22 they also have issue with that.

23           CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Well, it clearly  
24 puts Pennsylvania in a competitive  
25 disadvantage --

1 MR. SADAKA: That's for sure, yes.

2 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: -- in dealing  
3 with other engineering firms and other  
4 engineers.

5 MR. SADAKA: Exactly.

6 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: It's important  
7 that we -- we correct this -- this law.

8 We've been joined by Representative  
9 Parker, Representative Readshaw, and  
10 Representative Wansacz as well. And I want to  
11 remind those members that these proceedings  
12 are being recorded for broadcast with PCN.

13 Are there any questions for  
14 Mr. Sadaka?

15 Chairman Adolph.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ADOLPH: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 Gentlemen, thank you for your  
19 testimony. Mr. Sadaka mentioned in his  
20 testimony that this piece of legislation, the  
21 continuing ed requirement will be 24 hours.  
22 Okay? Which is the way it reads right now.

23 I just want to bring that to the  
24 members' attention because I think the  
25 analysis attached says that it's going to be

1 increased from 24 to 30. Okay. I just want  
2 to bring that to everyone's attention in case  
3 the bill analysis starts floating around the  
4 Capitol, you know, we're not increasing the  
5 continuing ed from 24 to 30. It's remaining  
6 at 24. Okay.

7 So it's really not a question. It's  
8 a statement. Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 Are there any other questions for  
12 this distinguished panel?

13 Thank you very much. And before you  
14 go, I want to return the compliment. I'm sure  
15 Representative Adolph -- Chairman Adolph joins  
16 me in thanking Mr. Wanner for keeping us  
17 informed about the changing nature and the  
18 needs of your industry.

19 So thank you very much for appearing  
20 here today.

21 MR. SADAKA: Thank you.

22 MR. WANNER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Our last  
24 testifier is Rhonda Hakundy-Jones. And I  
25 apologize if I'm mispronouncing your name.

1 She's the executive director of the  
2 Pennsylvania Council of Professional  
3 Geologists.

4 Good morning.

5 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Good morning,  
6 Chairman McGeehan. It is Hakundy-Jones, but  
7 everyone pronounces it the way that you did.

8 It is daunting to be the only  
9 geologist here on the day when the engineering  
10 council is having their legislative day, but I  
11 do commend them for their participation in our  
12 state government.

13 Again, good morning, Chairman  
14 McGeehan -- okay. Is that better? Can  
15 everyone hear me? And Chairman Adolph and all  
16 the members of the Professional Licensure  
17 Committee.

18 Thank you for this opportunity to  
19 present testimony regarding House Bills 587  
20 and 975 amending the Engineer, Land Surveyor  
21 and Geologist Registration Law.

22 My name, as indicated, is Rhonda  
23 Hakundy-Jones. I'm a PG. I am the executive  
24 director of the Pennsylvania Council for  
25 Professional Geologists, PCPG.

1           PCPG is a professional organization  
2           which represents national -- natural resource  
3           professionals, including geologists,  
4           environmental scientists, and natural resource  
5           practitioners. Our organization was  
6           responsible for helping to draft, sponsor,  
7           advocating for, and, ultimately, securing  
8           professional licensure for geologists in the  
9           Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

10           PCPG provides educational programs  
11           for geolog -- geologists and natural resource  
12           professionals from Pennsylvania and  
13           neighboring states.

14           These courses include a semi-annual  
15           review course for geologists preparing to take  
16           the professional geologist licensing exam and  
17           also a course on the ethics and  
18           responsibilities of professional geologists in  
19           Pennsylvania.

20           Our members serve on numerous state  
21           and federal advisory committees, including six  
22           different committees for the Department of  
23           Environmental Protection, DEP.

24           On behalf of PCPG, I wish to address  
25           three proposed modifications to the referenced

1 licensure law.

2 First being the definition of  
3 geologist-in-training. GIT.

4 Second, the inclusion within the  
5 powers of the Pennsylvania Engineer, Land  
6 Surveyors and Geologists Licensing Board,  
7 membership in the National Association of  
8 State Boards of Geology, referred to as  
9 ASBOG.

10 And, third, continued professional  
11 competency requirements.

12 PCPG commends the Professional  
13 Licensure Committee, its executive director,  
14 and its staff for realizing the importance of  
15 the GIT title to young geologists and to the  
16 practice of geology in the Commonwealth of  
17 Pennsylvania.

18 We believe that providing young  
19 geologists with a means of expressing their  
20 academic competency by adopting the GIT title  
21 will give them pride in their accomplishments  
22 and start them on the track for becoming  
23 professional geologists, PGs.

24 At a time when many of the  
25 Commonwealth's talented young people are

1 choosing to take their educations to other  
2 states, we hope that allowing young geologists  
3 to earn their GITs in Pennsylvania will  
4 encourage them to remain in the Commonwealth  
5 and entice more of the talented out-of-state  
6 geologists to come to Pennsylvania to develop  
7 their careers.

8 I would also like to state that PCPG  
9 is quite happy with the specific text  
10 pertaining to GIT in the referenced  
11 legislation. This text parallels that of  
12 engineers- and surveyors-in-training, which  
13 should facilitate the licensing board's  
14 implementation of the GIT.

15 PCPG recognizes that at the current  
16 time, when geologists serving on the licensing  
17 board meet as ASBOG, which is the geologists'  
18 national testing organization, they are  
19 inconsistently compensated for their costs.

20 In comparison, engineers and  
21 surveyors are routinely compensated for  
22 attending meetings of the National Council of  
23 Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors, NCEES,  
24 because their membership in NCEES is dictated  
25 in the existing licensure law.

1           We applaud the committee for adding  
2 geologist membership in ASBOG to this  
3 legislation thus ensuring Pennsylvania  
4 geologists' participation in ASBOG.

5           Regarding modifications to the  
6 continuing education law for engineers, land  
7 surveyors, and geologists, PCPG prefers the  
8 proposed concept of professional development  
9 hours, known as PDHs, over the existing  
10 requirement for continuing education units.

11           We are in favor of providing several  
12 mechanisms by which to obtain PDHs,  
13 including:

14           Completion of seminars, workshops,  
15 conventions and conferences;

16           Teaching or instructing courses;

17           Authoring professional papers, books,  
18 et cetera;

19           And obtaining patents.

20           PCPG wishes to stress that in  
21 consideration of the stated purpose of the  
22 continuing education law, which is to help  
23 safeguard life, health, and property and to  
24 promote the public welfare, the practice of  
25 professional engineering, land surveying, and

1 geology in this Commonwealth requires  
2 continuing professional competency.

3 It is very important to enact this  
4 legislation and require professionals to meet  
5 continuing professional competency  
6 requirements in the 2009 through 2011 biennial  
7 licensing cycle.

8 On behalf of PCPG, thank you for your  
9 time and consideration.

10 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Madam Executive  
11 Director, thank you for coming here and thank  
12 you for the input of the Pennsylvania Council  
13 of Professional Geologists on this language  
14 and legislation.

15 Are there any questions from the  
16 committee members assembled?

17 Yes. Representative Helm.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: I'd like a  
19 little bit of clarification on this. If  
20 you're a geologist-in-training, how long can  
21 you be in training before you have to sit for  
22 the exam? Is there any length of time?

23 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Well, that's  
24 something that's not really going to change.  
25 At the current time, a geologist can sit for

1 the PG exam after five years of practice,  
2 geologic practice. That will continue to be  
3 the case.

4 This simply clarifies that a young  
5 geologist coming out of college can take what  
6 we consider -- consider actually the first  
7 part of the exam, the fundamentals of geology,  
8 immediately after graduating from college.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: So what if --

10 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Actually -- go  
11 ahead.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: What if they  
13 don't want to take it in five years or  
14 whatever? Can they continue to be in training  
15 forever? Is there a cut-off date?

16 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Uh-huh. To my  
17 knowledge there's not a cut-off date. I don't  
18 believe that they have to give up that GIT.

19 There are certainly economic  
20 considerations and just general professional  
21 considerations that would usually entice an  
22 individual to become a PG.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: Okay. I read  
24 over this. If they're in training, do they  
25 have to take the continuing education?

1 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: (Shakes head from  
2 side to side.)

3 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: They don't have  
4 to so that's --

5 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Well, that is a  
6 good point. A GIT, EIT, or SIT, any of the  
7 professionals-in-training in this licensure  
8 would not have to take continuing education,  
9 is my understanding.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HELM: That's the way  
11 I understood this to read. I just wanted to  
12 clarify that for my own purposes. Thank you.

13 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: Thank you very  
15 much, Representative Helm.

16 Thank you, Madam Executive Director,  
17 for being here and offering your perspective  
18 on the bills.

19 MS. HAKUNDY-JONES: Thank you for the  
20 invitation. Sure.

21 CHAIRMAN MCGEEHAN: I think that  
22 concludes our list of testifiers today.

23 I want to thank Chairman Adolph and  
24 Chairman Markosek for bringing these important  
25 matters to the attention of the committee.

1 I also want to thank all the  
2 testifiers here for their work, not just in --  
3 in providing their testimony today, but for  
4 working with the Executive Directors, Tremmel  
5 and Representative -- pardon me -- Executive  
6 Director Crawford in crafting these bills so  
7 to nail down the language that would address  
8 many of the concerns that have been raised  
9 with both Chairman Adolph and myself.

10 With that, I will conclude this  
11 hearing of the Professional Licensure  
12 Committee and wish the assembled testifiers  
13 success on their Capitol Day today.

14 This meeting is adjourned.

15 (The following are written remarks  
16 submitted by Commissioner Basil Merenda,  
17 Department of State, Bureau of Professional  
18 and Occupational Affairs:)

19 Dear Chairman McGeehan:

20 Thank you for the invitation to  
21 comment on House Bill 587 and House Bill 975.  
22 The two bills simplify the process of  
23 continuing education by basing the law on the  
24 model law and rules of the National Council of  
25 Examiners in Engineering and Surveying

1 (NCEES), the national body of engineer and  
2 land surveying licensing authorities.

3 One of the legislative proposals,  
4 House Bill 587, would make the licensing  
5 scheme for geologists consistent with the  
6 schemes for engineers and land surveyors.

7 On behalf of the State Registration  
8 Board for Professional Engineers, Land  
9 Surveyors and Geologists, the Department of  
10 State is submitting this letter of support for  
11 these bills.

12 Simply put, House Bill 587 and House  
13 Bill 975 would adopt the same standards and  
14 methods for continuing education that are used  
15 in the profession on a national basis. The  
16 legislation would take the Board out of the  
17 tedious and time-consuming process of  
18 pre-approving providers or courses.

19 And, in the end, the licensees would  
20 be provided with greater flexibility to  
21 participate in continuing education activities  
22 throughout the nation while assuring that  
23 licensees participate in continuing education  
24 to maintain the integrity of the profession  
25 and protect the health, safety and welfare of

1 every consumer in the Commonwealth.

2 In addition, House Bill 587 would  
3 also amend the Engineer, Land Surveyor and  
4 Geologist Registration Law (Registration Law)  
5 to provide for the certification of a  
6 geologist-in-training. This would, in turn,  
7 make the licensing of geologists consistent  
8 with the licensing of engineers and land  
9 surveyors.

10 Both engineers and land surveyors  
11 currently have a two-step process for  
12 licensure that begins with a fundamental  
13 examination that leads to an  
14 engineer-in-training and a  
15 surveyor-in-training certification.

16 Upon completing four years of  
17 additional appropriate training, an  
18 engineer-in-training and a  
19 surveyor-in-training can sit for principles  
20 and practice examination that ends in an  
21 unrestricted license as a professional  
22 engineer or land surveyor.

23 House Bill 587 would enact the same  
24 two-step licensure scheme for geologists in  
25 the Commonwealth and establish the

1 requirements an applicant must meet to receive  
2 a geologist-in-training certificate.

3 Under current Section 4.4 of the  
4 Registration Law, a geologist applicant can  
5 immediately sit for the professional licensure  
6 examination in geology with an appropriate  
7 academic degree in geology and experience.

8 This means that a geologist, unlike  
9 an engineer and land surveyor, would be  
10 licensed professionally without the benefit of  
11 certification as a geologist-in-training and  
12 without passing a fundamentals examination as  
13 an engineer or land surveyor is required to  
14 do.

15 The Department submits that requiring  
16 a geologist to complete a training certificate  
17 will provide consumers with confidence that a  
18 licensed geologist is well versed in the  
19 fundamentals as well as the principles and  
20 practices of the profession and at the same  
21 time provide the consumer with the same  
22 assurance they already have in dealing with  
23 engineers and land surveyors.

24 The Department believes that  
25 establishing a two-step process for licensing

1 geologists in the Commonwealth is long  
2 overdue.

3 As it turns out, the Department makes  
4 only one recommendation regarding these two  
5 very good legislative initiatives. The  
6 Department is respectfully recommending that  
7 House Bill 975 be amended to include a similar  
8 provision for establishing a  
9 geologist-in-training certification.

10 Accordingly, I would like to commend  
11 the Legislature for proposing similar  
12 standards and methods for continuing education  
13 in Pennsylvania as is used for engineers, land  
14 surveyors and geologists on a national basis  
15 as well as for establishing a licensing scheme  
16 for geologists that is consistent with  
17 engineers and land surveyors.

18 Again, thank you for the opportunity  
19 to comment on the proposed legislation.  
20 Please feel free to contact me at 717-783-7192  
21 if you have any questions or concerns.

22 Sincerely yours,

23 Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner.

24 (This concludes the written remarks  
25 submitted by Commissioner Basil L.

1 Merenda, Department of State, Bureau of  
2 Professional and Occupational Affairs.)

3 (The hearing was concluded at  
4 10:02 a.m.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings  
and evidence are contained fully and  
accurately in the notes taken by me on the  
within proceedings and that this is a correct  
transcript of the same.

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Brenda S. Hamilton, RPR  
Reporter - Notary Public