

**Changes to the Texas Engineering Practice Act (TEPA)  
from the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Regular Session, 2013**

The Sunset Bill – [Senate Bill 204](#) – made changes to the TEPA, Chapter 1001 of the Occupations Code that are in effect as of September 1, 2013. The following is a summary of key changes:

- Increase maximum penalty from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per violation per day
- Summary suspension orders for imminent threat to public safety
- Cease-and-desist authority for unlicensed practice
- Change the fee structure for new applicants to defer \$200 professional fee until licensure is conferred.
- Requires all administrative penalties collected to be forwarded to the state's general fund.
- Criminal history record checks for all new licensees and all current licensees
  - Requires all professional engineers to submit fingerprints prior to renewal beginning January 2014. This applies to active licenses for a one-time submission for a criminal history record check.
  - All new applicants for engineering licensure will be required to submit fingerprints
  - [Criminal History Record Check Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - Note: Rules proposed at the August 28, 2013 Board Meeting will be posted for comment on the TBPE Website September 20, 2013.

[Link to TBPE Law & Rules – Effective 9/29/13](#)

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