

## Announcing the New Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors



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**Austin, Texas:** On June 16, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed a historic piece of legislation that will merge the regulation of the practices of engineering and land surveying into one board. Effective September 1, 2019, HB1523 creates the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS).

The Board members and staff from both the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying have already begun working on the implementation of the new legislation and activities to combine agency operations. The goal is a smooth and efficient transition that will provide effective and responsible regulation of both important professions.

“The Texas Board of Professional Engineers stands ready to become the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and continue our mission of protecting the public health and safety in the practices of engineering and surveying in the State of Texas,” said Dr. Daniel Wong, Chair of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Jon Hodde, Chair of the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying, added, “With the merger of the two boards by the signing of HB1523, both boards will continue to work together to make the transition as smooth as possible while continuing to provide services. The new structure provides one administration for the administration of our two professions. I have worked with Dr. Kinney and his team through NCEES for the past several years and am confident in their abilities and professionalism.”

There are numerous changes to the underlying statutes covered by HB1523 as well as guidance in the Sunset Report for the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying. As the rules and procedures are developed they will be communicated to practitioners and the public. Executive Director Lance Kinney said, “We see this as an opportunity to continue to improve operations, remove unnecessary administrative hurdles, and continue to provide excellent customer service in the process.”

More information will be available at <https://engineers.texas.gov> and <https://txls.texas.gov> as the merger moves forward. For further information, contact Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E. at [lance.kinney@engineers.texas.gov](mailto:lance.kinney@engineers.texas.gov) or 512-440-7723.

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