

Changes to the Texas Engineering Practice Act (TEPA) from the 83rd 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.

Changes to Rules Concerning the Practice of Engineering and Professional Engineering Licensure

The approved amendment to §131.35(d) changes the maximum amount of financial assistance from \$900 per fiscal year per employee to \$1500. Change effective September 29, 2013.

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

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