CHAPTER 259

1	AN ACT
2	relating to the regulation of the practice of engineering.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. Section 1001.003(c), Occupations Code, is
5	amended to read as follows:
6	(c) The practice of engineering includes:
7	(1) consultation, investigation, evaluation,
8	analysis, planning, engineering for program management, providing
9	an expert engineering opinion or testimony, engineering for testing
10	or evaluating materials for construction or other engineering use,
11	and mapping;
12	(2) design, conceptual design, or conceptual design
13	coordination of engineering works or systems;
14	(3) development or optimization of plans and
15	specifications for engineering works or systems;
16	(4) planning the use or alteration of land or water or
17	the design or analysis of works or systems for the use or alteration
18	of land or water;
19	(5) responsible charge of engineering teaching or the
20	teaching of engineering;
21	(6) performing an engineering survey or study;
22	(7) engineering for construction, alteration, or
23	repair of real property;
24	(8) engineering for preparation of an operating or

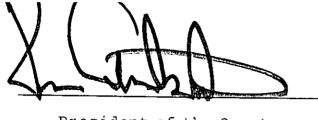
- 1 maintenance manual:
- 2 (9) engineering for review of the construction or
- 3 installation of engineered works to monitor compliance with
- 4 drawings or specifications;
- 5 (10) a service, design, analysis, or other work
- 6 performed for a public or private entity in connection with a
- 7 utility, structure, building, machine, equipment, process, system,
- 8 work, project, or industrial or consumer product or equipment of a
- 9 mechanical, electrical, electronic, chemical, hydraulic,
- 10 pneumatic, geotechnical, or thermal nature;
- 11 (11) providing an engineering opinion or analysis
- 12 related to a certificate of merit under Chapter 150, Civil Practice
- 13 and Remedies Code; or
- (12) (12) any other professional service necessary
- 15 for the planning, progress, or completion of an engineering
- 16 service.
- 17 SECTION 2. Section 1001.204(a), Occupations Code, is
- 18 amended to read as follows:
- 19 (a) The board shall establish the following fees in amounts
- 20 reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of administering this
- 21 chapter:
- 22 (1) license fee;
- 23 (2) annual and late renewal fees [fee];
- 24 (3) reciprocal license fee;
- 25 (4) duplicate license fee;
- 26 (5) engineer-in-training certificate fee;
- 27 (6) roster of engineers fee;

- 1 (7) examination fee;
- 2 (8) registration fee for engineering firm; and
- 3 (9) inactive status fee.
- 4 SECTION 3. Section 1001.252(1), Occupations Code, is 5 amended to read as follows:
- 6 (1)For complaint determined to any [frivolous] 7 frivolous or without merit, the complaint and other enforcement case information related to that complaint are confidential. The 8 information may be used only by the board or by its employees or 9 10 agents directly involved in the enforcement process for that complaint. The information is not subject to discovery, subpoena, 11 or other disclosure[, the license holder's name and other personal 12 13 information on the complaint is not public information and must be 14 redacted).
- SECTION 4. Sections 1001.353(a), (b), and (c), Occupations
 Code, are amended to read as follows:
- 17 (a) A person who is otherwise eligible to renew a license
 18 may renew an unexpired license by paying the required <u>annual</u>
 19 renewal fee to the board before the expiration date of the license.
 20 A person whose license has expired may not engage in activities that
 21 require a license until the license has been renewed.
- (b) A person whose license has been expired for 90 days or less may renew the license by paying to the board the required annual [a] renewal fee, a late [that is equal to 1-1/2 times the normally required] renewal fee, and any applicable increase in fees as required by Section 1001.206.
- (c) A person whose license has been expired for more than 90

- 1 days but less than two years may renew the license by paying to the
- 2 board the required annual [a] renewal fee, a late [that is equal to
- 3 two times the normally required renewal fee, and any applicable
- 4 increase in fees as required by Section 1001.206 for each
- 5 delinquent year or part of a year.
- 6 SECTION 5. Section 1001.401(b), Occupations Code, is
- 7 amended to read as follows:
- 8 (b) A plan, specification, plat, or report issued by a
- 9 license holder for a project to be constructed or used in this state
- 10 must include the license holder's seal placed on the document. \underline{A}
- 11 license holder is not required to use a seal required by this
- 12 section if the project is to be constructed or used in another state
- or country.
- SECTION 6. Section 1001.601, Occupations Code, is amended
- 15 to read as follows:
- Sec. 1001.601. BOARD ADVISORY OPINIONS. (a) On its own
- 17 initiative or at the request of any interested person, the board
- shall prepare a written advisory opinion about:
- 19 <u>(1)</u> an interpretation of this chapter; or
- 20 (2) the application of this chapter to a person in
- 21 regard to a specified existing or hypothetical factual situation.
- 22 (b) The board shall respond to requests for opinions within
- 23 180 days unless the board [ex] affirmatively states the board's
- 24 [state its] reason:
- 25 (1) for not responding to the request within 180 days;
- 26 <u>or</u>
- 27 (2) for not responding to the request at all.

- SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act to Section 1001.601, Occupations Code, applies only to a request for an opinion under that section that is made on or after the effective date of this Act. A request for an opinion that is made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law that existed at the time the request was made, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.
- SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act relating to
 the renewal of a license under Chapter 1001, Occupations Code,
 apply only to a license that expires on or after the effective date
 of this Act. A license that expires before the effective date of
 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the license
 expired, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.
- SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

H.B. No. 1817



President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1817 was passed by the House on April 14, 2005, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1817 on May 16, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1817 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 10, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:

30 MAY 05

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ODPIRO CLOCK

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