



STATE OF WASHINGTON
**BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**
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**Concise Explanatory Statement
Notice of Permanent Rules for WAC 196-26A & WAC 196-30**

The Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325(6)) requires agencies to complete a concise explanatory statement before filing adopted rules with the Code Reviser's Office. This statement will be provided to anyone who commented about the proposed rulemaking.

Adoption of: WAC 196-26A Registered professional engineer and land surveyor fees & WAC 196-30 Fees for on-site wastewater treatment designers and inspectors

Effective date: These rule changes will become effective January 1, 2025.

Summary of all public comments received on this proposal and the board's response to those comments:

Comment:

I am concerned about how high the fees are to maintain our PE license. I oppose an increase in any kind of renewals.

Response:

BRPELS is funded solely by licensing fees, not taxpayer dollars. Over time, this small increase (\$6 a year or \$12 per renewal cycle) would offset inflation driven increases to our agency costs, fund technology improvements and outreach opportunities to our professions and the public.

Comment:

Two things to note:

1. The \$180 fee for CA is for 2 years.
2. Perhaps you could consider a 2-year license period to reduce administrative costs.

Response:

The proposed fee of \$128 is for a two-year renewal period.

Comments:

The State of Montana has lower fees than Washington State for professional licensing registration and they have reduced the renewal fee to \$0 for the last 4 years. I am surprised that Washington State needs to increase the licensing fee at this time.

How much your costs have increased over the years to justify an increase in my fees. What costs have increased the most and why?

The answer isn't always to raise rates - especially during these difficult times. Maybe, just maybe you should trim everything to the bone and cut your tasks and duties to only what is absolutely essential.

Response:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the proposed fee increase. We understand that any additional cost can be frustrating, and we want to provide some clarity on why this change is necessary.

It has been over 20 years since renewal fees were increased. The fee increase of \$6 per year is being implemented to address rising operational costs and to further expand our efforts in promoting public awareness and safety. These initiatives are critical to ensure that professional engineering standards remain robust and that the public can trust the engineering profession's contributions to safety and quality.

We are committed to maintaining transparency and efficiency in our operations. Our goal is to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, with a focus on delivering the highest value to our licensees and the public. The additional revenue will be used to:

- 1. **Enhance Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educating the public about the vital role professional engineers and land surveyors play in our society.*
- 2. **Strengthen Safety Programs:** Expanding our safety initiatives to safeguard public welfare.*
- 3. **Cover Rising Operational Costs:** Addressing inflation and increased administrative expenses to maintain our high service standards.*

We believe these efforts will ultimately benefit all our licensees by reinforcing the integrity and trust in our profession.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support. If you have any further questions or would like more detailed information about our budget and expenditures, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Changes made to the proposed WAC because of public comment:

None

The Board appreciates your involvement in this rulemaking process. If you have any questions, please contact Shanan Gillespie, Board Rules Coordinator, at (360) 664-1570 or e-mail at Shanan.Gillespie@brpels.wa.gov.