



February 23, 2026

BRPELS (Board of Registration) has formed a task force to make a recommendation to the Board on whether BRPELS should adopt a PLSS Exam module that NCEES will start offering in October 2027. Task force members are Tony Chenier, Tim Kent, Tom Barger, and Alex Walczyk.

The task force members and BRPELS are asking for your input concerning this important decision. The task force has met twice, so far, and have looked at the exam content blueprint for the PLSS Exam module and the WA State Exam

Key facts:

- This would be in addition to the NCEES PS Exam and the State Exam
- Enrollment for the PLSS Exam begins Oct. 2026
- First issuance of the PLSS Exam test is Oct. 2027
- The NCEES PS exam will not have any PLSS questions in it starting Oct. 2027
- The PLSS Exam is 75 questions based on the BLM Manual and is a 5-hour exam
- The cost of the module is \$325 paid directly to NCEES
- BRPELS needs to decide in August 2026 if they'll adopt the exam module, not adopt it, or wait and reassess in a couple of years.

Considerations for the task force:

- Cost to applicants for three exams, including time studying and off work/travel
- How should BRPELS handle comity applications?
- Would adoption of the exam make it more difficult or less difficult to apply by comity (licensed elsewhere)?
- What subjects, and to what degree, are vital to test "minimum competency"?
- What problem is being fixed by adopting the exam module?
- What is the impact to the WA State Exam if we adopt, or not, to ensure we're testing for "minimum competency".
- If NCEES doesn't get enough test takers for the exam it may be pulled and either abandoned or put in holding status until more interest is garnered.

Once a decision is made, a new task force will be created to determine the changes needed to the WA State Exam.