

Forester licensure: what are the concerns?

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

Our proposal:

increase forester responsibility
by amending the state law that currently provides for the regulation and licensure
of the professions of engineering, land surveying, and geology
to include the profession of forestry.

Will competition be restricted?

No. Regulation of other similar professions has not restricted competition among practitioners.

Will the regulated group control the supply of practitioners?

No. Any individual who meets the standards and passes the examination established by the licensure board will be credentialed.

Will entry by those from other states who have substantially similar qualifications be unreasonably restricted?

No. Practitioners from other states, who are qualified to practice forestry in their state and do not maintain a place of business in Pennsylvania, may practice forestry in Pennsylvania for up to 30 days during any calendar year. In addition, individuals from other states who wish to become licensed in Pennsylvania may do so without being required to pass the Pennsylvania examination so long as the state from which they come has licensure standards which are equivalent to those of the Commonwealth.

Will regulation prevent optimum utilization of personnel? (Will the scope of practice prevent individuals from other professions or occupations from providing services for which they are qualified by training and experience?)

No. The proposal specifically provides that other related professions may perform forestry work incidental to their principal work.

Will regulation increase the cost of services to the public?

No. Based on the experience of other professions which have been subject to regulation, it is anticipated that the economic impact on the public of licensing foresters will be insignificant.

Will regulation decrease the availability of practitioners?

No. Based on the experience of other professions which have been subject to regulation, it is anticipated that the availability of practitioners will not diminish.

Are there safeguards in the proposed law to ensure that the regulated group will not use its power to promote their own self-interest over that of the public?

Because the licensure and oversight process for professional foresters will be administered by the independent state licensure board — the 11 members of which will include only two foresters — it is highly unlikely that professional foresters, as a body, will be able to promote their own self-interest over that of the public. The proposed law is similar to the statutes that regulate other professions. Other professions have not used licensure to promote self-interest.

For additional information about the proposal to license
professional foresters contact:
PA COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS
Post Office Box 6992 PMB 579
6059 Allentown Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17112
E-mail: info@paforesters.org • Internet: www.paforesters.org
Phone: 717/991-3586

*The nation behaves well if it treats the natural
resources as assets which it must turn over to the
next generation increased, and not impaired.*
THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 1910.