

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend D.C. Official Code § 47-2853.133 to re-establish an exemption for engaging in engineering work without a license for employees and consultants of the District government and independent agencies who are under the supervision of a professional engineer.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Engineering License Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2021”.

Sec. 2. (a) D.C. Official Code § 47-2853.133 provides that no person may engage in the practice of engineering or use the title “engineer” unless they are licensed to practice engineering.

(b) Employees and consultants of the District government and independent agencies were exempted from this requirement until 2017, when D.C. Law 21-272 repealed that exemption.

(c) Independent agencies have been working to become compliant with the law, but licensure requirements include obtaining an undergraduate engineering degree and passing the verification of the fundamentals examination that necessitate additional time, particularly for current employees of these agencies who cannot be easily transition to different roles or be

34 removed from projects to accommodate the time necessary to complete these licensure
35 requirements.

36 (d) DCRA has indicated that it will start penalizing individuals at independent agencies
37 who are not in compliance with D.C. Official Code § 47-2853.133 on August 1, 2021. This could
38 adversely affect agencies that still have dozens of employees doing engineering work who have
39 yet to complete all the requirements necessary to get a professional engineering license.

40 (e) To ensure that the operations of government or independent agencies are not
41 negatively affected by this looming enforcement action, it is necessary to temporarily re-
42 establish the exemption to licensure requirements for agency employees who may need to
43 engage in engineering work while under the supervision of a professional engineer who can
44 verify that his or her work is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules of the District.

45 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
46 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that
47 Engineering Licensure Emergency Amendment Act of 2021 be adopted after a single reading.

48 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.