OSPE Protects Ohio’s Professional Engineers

- Helped maintain the lowest PE registration fee in the nation by working closely with the State Board of Registration. Most states are 10-14 times higher than Ohio’s $40 biennial fee.
- Hosts Ohio’s only legislative day for Ohio’s professional engineers.
- Secured passage of the Ohio Engineers Title Act, which protects the title “engineer” from being used by non-engineers.
- Pursues Engineering Title Act violators! OSPE initiated the first defense of the law in 1993.
- Played a crucial role in enacting House Bill 337, which strengthens Ohio’s engineering laws & increases penalties for violating Ohio’s Engineering Practice Act.
- Stopped House Bill 345, HB 87, Senate Bill 138 & SB 156, all of which would have eroded the practice of engineering, allowing interior designers, home inspectors, landscape architects & industrial hygienists to “perform engineering services.”
- Defeated the consolidation of Ohio’s licensing boards into one “super board,” which would have resulted in massive increases in PE license fees and plummeting service to PEs.
- Successfully amended House Bill 87 to remove engineering conflicts in the definitions of industrial hygienists and safety professionals in Ohio law.
- Prevented an onerous continuing education proposal, then led the effort to enact an easy-to-use continuing professional development law.
- Defeated a proposal to change the “gross negligence” standard in the Ohio Engineering Practice Act to “simple negligence,” which would have led to lawsuits and jeopardized PE licenses.
- Stopped a proposal to license geologists and add them to the State Board of Registration.
- Led efforts to strengthen PE exam requirements by eliminating “alternate” paths to licensure in House Bill 337, such as through a “related science” degree, reinforcing the value of your engineering degree.
- Fought to keep the engineering firm “certificate of authorization” requirement in Ohio’s law.
- Defeated a proposal to eliminate PEs in responsible charge of engineering firms in House Bill 322.
- Fought to keep the law requiring engineering firms to be owned by a majority of licensed design professionals.
- Supported House Bill 741, protecting engineers & surveyors from trivial trespass accusations.
- Amended House Bill 383, exempting PE’s from the Ohio Private Investigator Laws so PE’s can investigate construction projects. Also saved PEs the $250 PI exam fee.
- Helped Ohio enact a new, responsible consumer protection law that strikes a good balance between protecting consumers and not driving engineering employers out of Ohio.
- Supported State Issue 1, which is creating thousands of engineering research and construction jobs through a $2 billion initiative.
- Led the effort to get the State Board of Registration to streamline its CoA-approval process.
- Successfully supported bond initiatives to fund capital improvements.
- Helped lead a powerful coalition that secured passage of comprehensive tort reforms including a 10 year statute of repose, restrictions on junk lawsuits and protections for retired PEs and industry from extreme liability claims.
- Successfully opposed several legislative efforts to extend Ohio sales tax to engineering services.
- Helped secure a victory in the Ohio Court of Appeals by filing a Friend of the Court brief, protecting PEs who provide expert testimony.
- Challenged “look-alike” seals that illegally imitate PE seals being submitted to government agencies showing detailed site plans, grading plans, sediment control devices, changes to storm drainage structures and other engineering features.
- Helped remove part of House Bill 26, which would have allowed “low bidding” in sanitary sewer districts.
- Helped stopped legislation at the state and federal levels that would have hindered the PE’s authority to select piping materials appropriate for the job.
- Successfully supported House Bill 17, which provides civil immunity protections for PE volunteers during declared emergencies.
- Successfully supported House Bill 236, which reinforces ethical professional practice.
- Successfully added a PE to the Ohio Amusement Ride Safety Council.
- Supported Ohio’s statute of repose by filing a friend of the court brief to protect design professionals from facing unlimited liability.
- Successfully supported Senate Bill 56 regulating the use of indemnity provisions in professional design contracts and thereby protecting engineers from financial loss in cases in which they do not bear liability.
- Protected the public and protected Ohio PEs from unqualified competition by successfully amending Senate Bill 131 to require at least a minimum education and an exam for out-of-state PEs seeking Ohio reciprocity.

OSPE....

- Protecting the PE
- Increasing the value of the PE license
- Eliminating Low Bidding
- Stopping Encroachment on Engineering
- Eliminating Extra Exams & Fees for PEs

rev. 4/23