

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 899**

Introduced by Lonowski, 33; Storm, 23.

Read first time January 08, 2026

Committee: Health and Human Services

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Engineers and Architects Regulation  
2 Act; to amend sections 81-3437.01 and 81-3451, Reissue Revised  
3 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 81-3449, Revised Statutes  
4 Supplement, 2025; to change the requirements for using seals; to  
5 eliminate an exception relating to the practice of architecture by  
6 certain nonresidents; to change and eliminate provisions relating to  
7 certain applications relating to engineers; to harmonize provisions;  
8 and to repeal the original sections.  
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1       **Section 1.** Section 81-3437.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska,  
2 is amended to read:

3           81-3437.01 (1) Each licensee authorized to practice architecture or  
4 engineering must obtain a seal. The design of the seal shall be  
5 determined by the board. If a professional engineer's license has been  
6 issued in a specific discipline, the discipline shall be specified on the  
7 seal. The following information shall be on the seal: State of Nebraska;  
8 licensee's name; licensee's license number; and the words Architect or  
9 Professional (discipline) Engineer.

10         (2) Whenever the seal is applied, the licensee's signature and the  
11 date of the seal's application shall be placed across or adjacent to the  
12 seal in a manner that does not obscure the licensee's name or the license  
13 number on the seal. The board may adopt and promulgate rules and  
14 regulations for application of the seal.

15         (3) The seal and the date of its placement shall be on all technical  
16 submissions and calculations whenever presented to a client or any public  
17 or governmental agency. It shall be unlawful for a licensee to affix his  
18 or her seal or to permit his or her seal to be affixed to any document  
19 after the expiration of the certificate or for the purpose of aiding or  
20 abetting any other person to evade or attempt to evade the Engineers and  
21 Architects Regulation Act.

22         (4) The seal and date shall be placed on all originals, copies,  
23 tracings, or other reproducible drawings and the first page and last  
24 pages of specifications, reports, and studies in such a manner that the  
25 seal, signature, and date will be reproduced and be in compliance with  
26 rules and regulations of the board. The application of the licensee's  
27 seal shall constitute certification that the work was done by the  
28 licensee or under the licensee's control.

29         (5) In the case of a temporary permit issued to a licensee of  
30 another state, the licensee shall use his or her state of licensure seal  
31 and shall affix his or her signature and temporary permit to all his or

1 her work.

2 **Sec. 2.** Section 81-3449, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is  
3 amended to read:

4 81-3449 The provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation  
5 Act regulating the practice of architecture do not apply to the following  
6 activities:

7 (1) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a  
8 detached single-family through four-family dwelling of less than five  
9 thousand square feet of above grade finished space. Any detached or  
10 attached sheds, storage buildings, and garages incidental to the dwelling  
11 are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may  
12 be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the  
13 Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B,  
14 limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in  
15 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

16 (2) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of a  
17 one-story commercial or industrial building or structure of less than  
18 five thousand square feet of above grade finished space which does not  
19 exceed thirty feet in height unless such building or structure, or the  
20 remodeling or repairing thereof, provides for the employment, housing, or  
21 assembly of twenty or more persons. Any detached or attached sheds,  
22 storage buildings, and garages incidental to the building or structure  
23 are not included in the tabulation of finished space. Such exemption may  
24 be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to the  
25 Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B,  
26 limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in  
27 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

28 (3) The construction, remodeling, alteration, or renovation of farm  
29 buildings, including barns, silos, sheds, or housing for farm equipment  
30 and machinery, livestock, poultry, or storage, if the structures are  
31 designed to be occupied by no more than twenty persons. Such exemption

1 may be increased by rule and regulation of the board adopted pursuant to  
2 the Negotiated Rulemaking Act but shall not exceed the Type V, column B,  
3 limitations set forth by the allowable height and building areas table in  
4 the state building code adopted in section 71-6403;

5 (4) Any public works project with contemplated expenditures for a  
6 completed project that do not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The  
7 board shall adjust the dollar amount in this subdivision every fifth  
8 year. The first such adjustment after August 27, 2011, shall be effective  
9 on July 1, 2014. The adjusted amount shall be equal to the then current  
10 amount adjusted by the cumulative percentage change in the Consumer Price  
11 Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Federal Bureau of Labor  
12 Statistics for the five-year period preceding the adjustment date. The  
13 amount shall be rounded to the next highest one-thousand-dollar amount;

14 (5) Any alteration, renovation, or remodeling of a building if the  
15 alteration, renovation, or remodeling does not affect architectural or  
16 engineering safety features of the building;

17 (6) The teaching, including research and service, of architectural  
18 subjects in a college or university offering a degree in architecture  
19 accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board;

20 (7) The preparation of submissions to architects, building  
21 officials, or other regulating authorities by the manufacturer, supplier,  
22 or installer of any materials, assemblies, components, or equipment that  
23 describe or illustrate the use of such items, the preparation of any  
24 details or shop drawings required of the contractor by the terms of the  
25 construction documents, or the management of construction contracts by  
26 persons customarily engaged in contracting work;

27 (8) The preparation of technical submissions or the administration  
28 of construction contracts by employees of a person or organization  
29 lawfully engaged in the practice of architecture if such employees are  
30 acting under the direct supervision of an architect;

31 (9) A public service provider or an organization who employs a

1 licensee performing professional services for itself;

2 (10) A nonresident who holds the certification issued by the  
3 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards offering to render  
4 the professional services involved in the practice of architecture. The  
5 nonresident shall not perform any of the professional services involved  
6 in the practice of architecture until licensed as provided in the  
7 Engineers and Architects Regulation Act. The nonresident shall notify the  
8 board in writing that (a) he or she holds a National Council of  
9 Architectural Registration Boards certificate and is not currently  
10 licensed in Nebraska but will be present in Nebraska for the purpose of  
11 offering to render architectural services, (b) he or she will deliver a  
12 copy of the notice to every potential client to whom the applicant offers  
13 to render architectural services, and (c) he or she promises to apply  
14 immediately to the board for licensure if selected as the architect for  
15 the project;

16 (10) (11) The practice by a qualified member of another legally  
17 recognized profession who is otherwise licensed or certified by this  
18 state or any political subdivision to perform services consistent with  
19 the laws of this state, the training, and the code of ethics of the  
20 respective profession, if such qualified member does not represent  
21 himself or herself to be practicing architecture and does not represent  
22 himself or herself to be an architect;

23 (11) (12) Financial institutions making disbursements of funds in  
24 connection with construction projects;

25 (12) (13) Earthmoving and related work associated with soil and  
26 water conservation practices performed on farmland or any land owned by a  
27 political subdivision that is not subject to a permit from the Department  
28 of Water, Energy, and Environment or for work related to livestock waste  
29 facilities that are not subject to a permit by the Department of Water,  
30 Energy, and Environment; and

31 (13) (14) The work of employees and agents of a political

1 subdivision or a nonprofit entity organized for the purpose of furnishing  
2 electrical service performing, in accordance with other requirements of  
3 law, their customary duties in the administration and enforcement of  
4 codes, permit programs, and land-use regulations and their customary  
5 duties in utility and public works construction, operation, and  
6 maintenance.

7       **Sec. 3.** Section 81-3451, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
8 amended to read:

9       81-3451 (1) The following shall be considered as the minimum  
10 evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for  
11 enrollment as an engineer-intern:

12       (a)(i) Graduation from a program accredited by the Engineering  
13 Accreditation Commission of ABET;

14       (ii) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian  
15 Engineering Accreditation Board; or

16       (iii) Meeting the Education Standard of the National Council of  
17 Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as determined by the council;

18       (b) Passage of an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as  
19 accepted by the Board of Engineers and Architects;

20       (c) Submittal of an application accompanied by the fee established  
21 by the board; and

22       (d) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by  
23 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references  
24 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for  
25 enrollment.

26       (2)(a) ~~The following shall be considered as the minimum evidence  
27 satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for admission to  
28 the examination on the principles and practice of engineering that is  
29 adopted by the board:~~

30       (i)(A) ~~Graduation from a program accredited by the Engineering  
31 Accreditation Commission of ABET;~~

1       (B) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian Engineering  
2 Accreditation Board; or

3       (C) Meeting the Education Standard of the National Council of  
4 Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as determined by the council;

5       (ii) Passage of an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as  
6 accepted by the Board of Engineers and Architects;

7       (iii) Submittal of an application accompanied by the fee established  
8 by the board; and

9       (iv) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by  
10 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references  
11 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application.

12       (b) A candidate who fails the principles and practice of engineering  
13 examination may apply for reexamination, which may be granted upon  
14 payment of a fee established by the board. In the event of a second or  
15 subsequent failure, the examinee may, at the discretion of the board, be  
16 required to appear before the board with evidence of having acquired the  
17 necessary additional knowledge to qualify before admission to the  
18 examination.

19       (2) (3) The following shall be considered as the minimum evidence  
20 satisfactory to the board that an applicant is eligible for licensure as  
21 a professional engineer:

22       (a)(i) Graduation from a program accredited by the Engineering  
23 Accreditation Commission of ABET;

24       (ii) Graduation from a program accredited by the Canadian  
25 Engineering Accreditation Board; or

26       (iii) Meeting the Education Standard of the National Council of  
27 Examiners for Engineering and Surveying as determined by the council;

28       (b) Passage of an examination in the fundamentals of engineering  
29 that is accepted by the Board of Engineers and Architects;

30       (c) (a) Passage of an examination in the principles and practice of  
31 engineering that is accepted by the board examination as set forth in

1 ~~subsection (2) of this section;~~

2 (d) (b) A record of four years or more of progressive post-  
3 accredited-degree experience on engineering projects of a grade and  
4 character which indicates to the board that the applicant may be  
5 competent to practice engineering;

6 (e) Submittal of an application for licensure as a professional  
7 engineer accompanied by a fee established by the board;

8 (f) (e) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character  
9 by attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of  
10 references acceptable to the board shall be included in the application  
11 for licensure; and

12 (g) (d) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules,  
13 and other requirements unique to this state.

14 (3) (4) An individual holding a license to practice engineering  
15 issued by a proper authority of any jurisdiction, based on credentials  
16 that do not conflict with ~~subsection subsections (2) and (3) of this~~  
17 section and other provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation  
18 Act, may, upon application, be licensed as a professional engineer after:

19 (a) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by  
20 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references  
21 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for  
22 licensure; and

23 (b) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and  
24 other requirements unique to this state.

25 (4) (5) An individual who has been licensed to practice engineering  
26 for fifteen years or more in one or more jurisdictions and who has  
27 practiced engineering for fifteen years in compliance with the licensing  
28 laws in the jurisdictions where his or her engineering practice has  
29 occurred since initial licensure may, upon application, be licensed as a  
30 professional engineer after:

31 (a) Demonstration of good reputation and good ethical character by

1 attestation of references. The names and complete addresses of references  
2 acceptable to the board shall be included in the application for  
3 licensure; and

4 (b) Successful passage of an examination on the statutes, rules, and  
5 other requirements unique to this state.

6 (5) ~~(6)~~ The board may designate a professional engineer as being  
7 licensed in a specific discipline or branch of engineering signifying the  
8 area in which the professional engineer has demonstrated competence.

9 (6) ~~(7)~~ Upon application to the board in writing and payment of a  
10 fee established by the board, an individual who holds a valid license to  
11 practice engineering in another jurisdiction may be issued a temporary  
12 permit, valid for a definite period of time, to provide engineering  
13 services for a specific project. An individual may not be issued more  
14 than one temporary permit. No right to practice engineering accrues to  
15 such applicant with respect to any other work not set forth in the  
16 temporary permit. Temporary permit holders are subject to all of the  
17 provisions of the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act governing the  
18 practice of engineering.

19 (7) ~~(8)~~ None of the examination materials described in this section  
20 shall be considered public records.

21 (8) ~~(9)~~ The board or its agent shall direct the time and place of  
22 the engineering examinations referenced in subsections (1) and   ~~and~~  (2)  ~~and~~   
23 and ~~(3)~~ of this section.

24 (9) ~~(10)~~ The board may adopt the examinations and grading procedures  
25 of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. The  
26 board may also adopt guidelines published by the council.

27 (10) ~~(11)~~ Licensure shall be effective upon issuance.

28 **Sec. 4.** Original sections 81-3437.01 and 81-3451, Reissue Revised  
29 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 81-3449, Revised Statutes Supplement,  
30 2025, are repealed.