



The Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Act

The Mission of the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BORPELS) is to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare in regards to engineering, land surveying and on-site wastewater system design professions.

BORPELS was created via mid-1900's legislation as a separate agency (as confirmed in opinion AGO 1986 No. 14 -Dec 17 1986 of the State Attorney General), to exercise all of the powers and perform the duties conferred upon in RCWs 18.43. However, the appropriations for BORPLES dedicated fund (024) was made to the Department of Licensing Agency Program which unintentionally diluted BORPLES authority to fulfill the legislative direction to regulate the professions. This unintended separation of budget authority from the regulatory responsibility has created an ambiguous and inefficient model for regulating the Washington State Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and On Site Waste Water Designers. This legislation provides a clear authority of budget and staffing while utilizing the Department of Licensing (DOL) and other state agencies for accountable and efficient administrative services.

Why is it needed?

BORPELS through legislation was created as a separate state agency with dedicated funding but the DOL was given administrative responsibility for setting fees and issuing certificates. This interrelationship between BORPELS and DOL has resulted in confusion of responsibilities by each organization. This legislation is needed to:

- Resolve authority over the Professional Engineers' Account (024 account). With the budgetary authority BORPELS will build a more proactive stance by providing education and outreach to:
 - Improve national visibility of BORPELS to better represent the Washington Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and On-site Designers.



- Establishing consistent relationships with the Washington engineering schools, professional schools, and the professional associations.
- Be proactive in maintaining valid and current Washington State Land Surveyors, On-site Designers and Ethics examinations.
- Provide assurance of key dedicated BORPELS staff to fulfill the mission of BORPELS.
- Ability to timely address increasingly complex regulatory issues
- Define resources needed to carry out the mission of the board with those provided by DOL and other state agencies

Will it work?

Yes. A working model of same size of staff, licensees and budget already exists with the Washington State Board of Accountancy. This board's budget is consistently solvent, and the constituents are pleased with the level of service.