



HYBRID (IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL)
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS, AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
N208, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison
Contact: Will Johnson (608) 266-2112
August 5, 2026

The following agenda describes the issues that the Board plans to consider at the meeting. At the time of the meeting, items may be removed from the agenda. Please consult the meeting minutes for a record of the actions of the Board.

Be advised that board members may attend meetings designated as “Hybrid” in-person or virtually.

AGENDA

11:00 A.M.

OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

- A. Adoption of Agenda (1-2)**
- B. Approval of Minutes of February 4, 2026 (3-4)**
- C. Reminders: Conflicts of Interest, Scheduling Concerns**
- D. Introductions, Announcements and Recognition**
- E. Administrative Matters**
 - 1) Department, Staff and Board Updates
 - 2) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates:
 - a. Gbolo, Prosper – 7/1/2029
 - b. Hirekatur, Ann – 7/1/2028
 - c. Hunt, Randall – 7/1/2012
 - d. Myers, Dennis – 7/1/2027
 - e. Nobile, Trevor W. – 7/1/2028
 - f. Small, John – 7/1/2026
 - g. Williams, Stephanie – 7/1/2017
- F. 11:00 A.M. Public Hearing on CR-26-022, GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations (5-6)**
- G. Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration (7-20)**
 - 1) Discussion of Public Comments and Clearinghouse Comments for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations
 - 2) Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects

H. Section Reports – Discussion

- 1) Geologist Section
- 2) Hydrologist Section
- 3) Soil Scientist Section

I. Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Matters – Discussion and Consideration

J. Emerging Trends in GHSS Professions – Discussion

K. Legislative and Policy Matters – Discussion and Consideration

L. Deliberation on Items Added After Preparation of Agenda:

- 1) Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
- 2) Administrative Matters
- 3) Election of Officers
- 4) Appointment of Liaisons and Alternates
- 5) Delegation of Authorities
- 6) Education and Examination Matters
- 7) Credentialing Matters
- 8) Practice Matters
- 9) Legislative and Policy Matters
- 10) Public Health Emergencies
- 11) Administrative Rule Matters
- 12) Liaison Reports
- 13) Board Liaison Training and Appointment of Mentors
- 14) Informational Items
- 15) Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters
- 16) Motions
- 17) Petitions
- 18) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
- 19) Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports

M. Public Comments

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: TBD 2027

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND MAY BE CANCELLED WITHOUT NOTICE.

Times listed for meeting items are approximate and depend on the length of discussion and voting. All meetings are held virtually unless otherwise indicated. In-person meetings are typically conducted at 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, Wisconsin, unless an alternative location is listed on the meeting notice. In order to confirm a meeting or to request a complete copy of the board's agenda, please visit the Department website at <https://dps.wi.gov>. The board may also consider materials or items filed after the transmission of this notice. Times listed for the commencement of any agenda item may be changed by the board for the convenience of the parties. The person credentialed by the board has the right to demand that the meeting at which final action may be taken against the credential be held in open session. Requests for interpreters for the hard of hearing, or other accommodations, are considered upon request by contacting the Affirmative Action Officer or reach the Meeting Staff by calling 608-267-7213.

**TELECONFERENCE/VIRTUAL
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

PRESENT: Prosper Gbolo, Ann Hirekatur, Randall Hunt, Dennis Myers, Trevor Nobile, John Small, Stephanie Williams

STAFF: Will Johnson, Executive Director; Gretchen Mrozinski, Legal Counsel; Jacob Pelegrin, Administrative Rule Coordinator; Ashley Sarnosky, Board Administration Specialist; and other Department staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Trevor Nobile, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. A quorum was confirmed with seven (7) members present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to adopt the Agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2025

MOTION: John Small moved, seconded by Ann Hirekatur, to approve the Minutes of August 6, 2025 as published. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Election of Officers

Slate of Officers

NOMINATION: Dennis Myers nominated the 2025 slate of officers to continue in 2026. All officers accepted their nominations.

Will Johnson, Executive Director, called for nominations three (3) times.

The Slate of Officers was elected by unanimous voice vote.

2026 ELECTION RESULTS	
Chairperson	Trevor Nobile
Vice Chairperson	Ann Hirekatur
Secretary	Stephanie Williams

Delegation of Authorities

Review and Approval of 2025 Delegations including new modifications

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Prosper Gbolo, to reaffirm all delegation motions made in 2025, as reflected in the February 4, 2026 agenda materials, which were not otherwise modified or amended during the February 4, 2026 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE MATTERS

Preliminary Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Ann Hirekatur, to authorize the Chair to work with DSPS staff on rule drafting for rule GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations and to approve the preliminary rule draft for posting for Economic Impact Analysis comments and submittal to the Clearinghouse. Motion carried unanimously.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, TRAVEL, OR PUBLIC RELATION REQUESTS, AND REPORTS

Consider Attendance: 2026 Spring Council of Examiners Workshop – April 9-11, 2026 – Branson, MO

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by Randall Hunt, to designate Trevor Nobile to attend the 2026 Spring Council of Examiners Workshop on April 9-11, 2026 in Branson, MO. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Attendance: 2026 Fall COE Workshop and Annual Business Meeting – October 27-31, 2026 – Hershey, PA

MOTION: Dennis Myers moved, seconded by John Small, to designate Trevor Nobile and Stephanie Williams to attend the 2026 Fall COE Workshop and Annual Business Meeting on October 27-31, 2026 in Hershey, PA. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Prosper Gbolo moved, seconded by Randall Hunt, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

1) Name and title of person submitting the request: Jake Pelegrin Administrative Rules Coordinator		2) Date when request submitted: 7/21/26 Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date which is 8 business days before the meeting											
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections: GHSS Examining Board													
4) Meeting Date: 8/5/26	5) Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? 11:00am Public Hearing on CR 26-022, GHSS 1 to 4 relating to Licensure and Examinations											
7) Place Item in: ☒ Open Session ☐ Closed Session	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? <i>(If yes, please complete Appearance Request for Non-DSPS Staff)</i> ☐ Yes ☒ No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required: N/A											
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Attachments: Notice of Public Hearing													
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; border: none;">11)</td> <td style="width: 60%; border: none; text-align: right;">Authorization</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><i>Jake Pelegrin</i></td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;">7/21/26</td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; border: none;">Signature of person making this request</td> <td style="width: 30%; border: none; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; border: none;">Supervisor (if required)</td> <td style="width: 30%; border: none; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> </table> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; border: none;">Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)</td> <td style="width: 30%; border: none; text-align: right;">Date</td> </tr> </table>				11)	Authorization	<i>Jake Pelegrin</i>	7/21/26	Signature of person making this request	Date	Supervisor (if required)	Date	Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)	Date
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Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.													

Notice of Public Hearing

The Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists announces that it will hold a public hearing on the rule revising GHSS 1 to 4, relating to Licensure and Examinations, at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: August 5, 2026

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: Information concerning the location of the hearing will be available at:

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/GHSS/Meetings.aspx>

Appearances at the Hearing and Submittal of Written Comments

The rule may be reviewed and comments submitted at:

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/chr/hearings>.

Comments may also be submitted to Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, P.O. Box 14497, Madison, WI 53708-0497, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Comments must be received at or before the public hearing to be included in the record of rulemaking proceedings.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The proposed rule will not have an effect on small businesses, as defined under s. 227.114 (1).

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator

The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted at

Jennifer.Garrett@wisconsin.gov or calling (608) 266-2112.

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

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Describe the issue and action that should be addressed: Attachments: -Clean copy of the Clearinghouse Report -Clearinghouse comments with Jake responses -Final Rule Draft for GHSS 1 to 4													
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Wisconsin Legislative Council

RULES CLEARINGHOUSE

Scott Grosz
Clearinghouse Director

Margit Kelley
Clearinghouse Assistant Director

Anne Sappenfield
Legislative Council Director

CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT TO AGENCY

[THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO S. 227.15, STATS. THIS IS A REPORT ON A RULE AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE AGENCY; THE REPORT MAY NOT REFLECT THE FINAL CONTENT OF THE RULE IN FINAL DRAFT FORM AS IT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE. THIS REPORT CONSTITUTES A REVIEW OF, BUT NOT APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF, THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT AND TECHNICAL ACCURACY OF THE RULE.]

CLEARINGHOUSE RULE **26-022**

AN ORDER to repeal GHSS 2.06 (2) and (3), 3.05 (2) and (3), and 4.05 (2) and (3); and to amend GHSS 2.06 (1), 3.05 (1), 4.02 (Note), 4.05 (1), and 4.06 (10) (Note), relating to licensure and examinations.

Submitted by **EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS**

03-18-2026 RECEIVED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

03-25-2026 REPORT SENT TO AGENCY.

MSK:PW

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES CLEARINGHOUSE REPORT

This rule has been reviewed by the Rules Clearinghouse. Based on that review, comments are reported as noted below:

1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY [s. 227.15 (2) (a)]

Comment Attached YES ☒ NO ☐

2. FORM, STYLE AND PLACEMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE [s. 227.15 (2) (c)]

Comment Attached YES ☒ NO ☐

3. CONFLICT WITH OR DUPLICATION OF EXISTING RULES [s. 227.15 (2) (d)]

Comment Attached YES ☐ NO ☒

4. ADEQUACY OF REFERENCES TO RELATED STATUTES, RULES AND FORMS
[s. 227.15 (2) (e)]

Comment Attached YES ☐ NO ☒

5. CLARITY, GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION AND USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE [s. 227.15 (2) (f)]

Comment Attached YES ☒ NO ☐

6. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH, AND COMPARABILITY TO, RELATED FEDERAL
REGULATIONS [s. 227.15 (2) (g)]

Comment Attached YES ☐ NO ☒

7. COMPLIANCE WITH PERMIT ACTION DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS [s. 227.15 (2) (h)]

Comment Attached YES ☐ NO ☒



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CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 26-022

Comments

[NOTE: All citations to “Manual” in the comments below are to the Administrative Rules Procedures Manual, prepared by the Legislative Council Staff and the Legislative Reference Bureau, dated November 2020.]

1. Statutory Authority

In the “Statutes interpreted” section of the rule analysis, should additional statutes be listed? The proposed rule interprets s. 440.071 (1), Stats., which only relates to pre-examination postsecondary education or other program requirements, but the proposed rule removes requirements related to experience and arrest and conviction records, in addition to requirements related to postsecondary education. For example, consider adding ss. 470.03 (1), 470.04, and 470.05, Stats.

2. Form, Style and Placement in Administrative Code

Consider whether an initial applicability clause should be included, because the proposed rule modifies an existing application process. [s. 1.03 (3), Manual.]

5. Clarity, Grammar, Punctuation and Use of Plain Language

a. In the “Plain language analysis” section of the rule analysis, consider explaining the proposed rule’s additional changes that are not related to bringing the rule into compliance with s. 440.071 (1), Stats. As noted above, the proposed rule also removes pre-examination requirements related to experience and arrest and conviction records, which are not addressed in s. 440.071 (1), Stats. The plain language analysis makes it clear that those aspects continue to apply as licensure requirements, and are only uncoupled in the proposed rule from the pre-examination requirements. However, those aspects are outside the scope of s. 440.071 (1), Stats., and are in the board’s discretion as pre-examination requirements. Consider explaining the board’s reasoning for the policy change, which removes licensure requirements related to experience and arrest and conviction records from affecting examination eligibility. For example, could there be circumstances where it would be helpful to determine, prior to examination, whether an applicant’s arrest or conviction record would bar licensure? Or, do other considerations favor removing all pre-examination requirements?

b. In SECTIONS 1, 3, and 6 of the proposed rule, consider revising the grammatical structure of the inserted text. For example, each sentence describing the fundamentals examination could state that: “The fundamentals examination is required to test an applicant’s understanding...”. This applies to the sentence describing the principles and practice examination as well.



Wisconsin Legislative Council

RULES CLEARINGHOUSE

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CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 26-022

Comments

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This comment can be a bit confusing or misleading, because the rule is not completely removing the requirements for experience and arrest and conviction records. It is only removing them as pre-examination requirements. As we have discussed in the past, the experience requirements are still present in the statutes at [470.04\(2\)\(c\)](#), [470.04\(3\)\(c\)](#), and [470.04\(4\)\(c\)](#). The arrest and conviction records requirements are still present in the statutes at [470.04\(2\)\(a\)](#), (3) (a), and (4) (a).

I would still recommend accepting the comment and it is an easy edit. All I did was add more statutory citations in the Statutes Interpreted.

2. Form, Style and Placement in Administrative Code

Consider whether an initial applicability clause should be included, because the proposed rule modifies an existing application process. [s. 1.03 (3), Manual.]

This is a good question for the board and the sections to discuss. Completely up to you if you want to accept or reject this.

In general, rules that change application requirements are done with some kind of delayed effective date or initial applicability clause. This is done so that the rule doesn’t interfere with applications that are currently in progress. However, this rule change is a fairly minor change (only removing pre-exam requirements). Theoretically, it shouldn’t interfere with applications that are in progress.

5. Clarity, Grammar, Punctuation and Use of Plain Language

a. In the “Plain language analysis” section of the rule analysis, consider explaining the proposed rule’s additional changes that are not related to bringing the rule into compliance with¹²

440.071 (1), Stats. As noted above, the proposed rule also removes pre-examination requirements related to experience and arrest and conviction records, which are not addressed in s. 440.071 (1), Stats. The plain language analysis makes it clear that those aspects continue to apply as licensure requirements, and are only uncoupled in the proposed rule from the pre-examination requirements. However, those aspects are outside the scope of s. 440.071 (1), Stats., and are in the board's discretion as pre-examination requirements. Consider explaining the board's reasoning for the policy change, which removes licensure requirements related to experience and arrest and conviction records from affecting examination eligibility. For example, could there be circumstances where it would be helpful to determine, prior to examination, whether an applicant's arrest or conviction record would bar licensure? Or, do other considerations favor removing all pre-examination requirements?

Good question for the board and the sections to discuss. All the comment is asking for is to add a couple sentences to the plain language analysis, explaining the policy decision.

To their question in the very last sentence, I think the board's answer after discussion at the last meeting was something like: "yes, other considerations favor removing all pre-examination requirements. The board would like to streamline and increase efficiency of credentialling. The board believes an applicant should be allowed to take the examinations whenever they feel ready, not after a certain number of years of experience or education. The board is also making this decision in line with many other professions that made the same decision in response to s. 440.071 (1), Stats. For example, the A-E professions (architects, engineers, etc.) also made the decision to remove all pre-examination requirements in this fashion."

I added a bit of this to the plain language analysis as a proposed response. As always, let me know with any comments, opinions, if anyone doesn't agree or would like a different approach to how to respond.

b. In SECTIONS 1, 3, and 6 of the proposed rule, consider revising the grammatical structure of the inserted text. For example, each sentence describing the fundamentals examination could state that: “The fundamentals examination is required to test an applicant’s understanding...”. This applies to the sentence describing the principles and practice examination as well.

To this comment, this is just my personal opinion, but I actually like the original language a lot more. The original language is in active voice and uses less words to express the same idea. Their proposed edit is in passive voice and uses more words. Also, the original language is exactly as it is in current code. ([GHSS 2.06\(2\)](#) and other places)

It is completely up to the sections and the board if you want to accept their comment and make the change, or reject the comment and keep the original language.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS AND
SOIL SCIENTISTS

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING	:	PROPOSED ORDER OF THE
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE	:	EXAMINING BOARD OF
EXAMINING BOARD OF	:	PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,	:	HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL	:	SCIENTISTS ADOPTING RULES
SCIENTISTS	:	(CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 26-022)

PROPOSED ORDER

A proposed order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to **repeal** GHSS 2.06 (2) and (3), 3.05 (2) and (3), and 4.05 (2) and (3); and to **amend** GHSS 2.06 (1), 3.05 (1), 4.02 (Note), 4.05 (1), and 4.06 (10) (Note) relating to Licensure and Examinations.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted:

Sections 440.071 (1), 470.03 (1), 470.04, and 470.05, Stats.

Statutory authority:

Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a), and 470.03 (1) (a) to (c), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

Section 15.08 (5) (b), Stats., provides that each examining board “[s]hall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.”

Section 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., provides that “[e]ach agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation.”

Section 470.03 (1) (a) to (c), Stats., state that the examining board shall: (a) “[u]pon the advice of the professional geologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional geology by a person who is licensed as a

professional geologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional geology.

(b) Upon the advice of the professional hydrologist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional hydrology by a person who is licensed as a professional hydrologist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional hydrology.

(c) Upon the advice of the professional soil scientist section, promulgate rules establishing requirements and standards for the practice of professional soil science by a person who is licensed as a professional soil scientist under this chapter, including a code of ethics that governs the practice of professional soil science.”

Related statute or rule:

Section 440.071 (1), Stats.

Plain language analysis:

The objective of the proposed rule is to update the administrative code of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists to bring it into compliance with s. 440.071 (1), Stats. This statute prohibits credentialing boards from requiring a person to complete postsecondary education before the person is eligible to take an examination for a credential. Current GHSS code contains experience, education, and examination requirements to apply for licensure as a geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist. The basics of these requirements are set by statute and are given details and specifics in the GHSS code.

Current GHSS code states various pre-examination requirements that applicants must complete before being allowed to take licensure exams. The proposed rule repeals these pre-examination requirements. In general, the pre-examination requirements being repealed are simply requirements that an applicant has reached a certain point in their education and experience requirements. Overall, applicants must complete all of these education and experience requirements anyway. The rule does not lower the level of qualifications for licensure as a geologist, hydrologist, or soil scientist. It simply changes the timing, so applicants are able to take licensure exams before their education and experience requirements are substantially completed, if they wish. The board would like to streamline and increase efficiency of credentialing, and for this reason the board has decided to remove all pre-examination requirements. The board believes an applicant should be allowed to take the exams whenever they feel ready, not after a certain number of years of experience or education. The board is making this decision in line with many other licensed professions that made the same decision in response to s. 440.071 (1), Stats.

Proposed edit in response to Clearinghouse comment 5.a. is above. As always, let me know with any questions, opinions, or if anyone wants to take a different approach.

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Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:

None.

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope:

None.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is responsible for the licensure and regulation of professional geologists. It does require that to take the geologists' licensing exam, an applicant must complete a bachelor's or graduate degree in a geology educational program [Illinois Administrative Code Title 68 Chapter VII Subchapter b Part 1252 Section 1252.20]. Illinois does not require licensure for professional hydrologists or professional soil scientists.

Iowa:

Iowa does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists. However, they do require certification as a "certified groundwater professional" for any person who provides subsurface soil contamination and groundwater consulting services, or who contracts to perform or who supervises remediation or corrective action services at leaking underground storage tank sites [567 Iowa Administrative Code 134.1 to 134.5]. There are many different pathways to acquiring this certification, with some that do require post-secondary education before taking an examination, and some that do not.

Michigan:

Michigan does not require licensure of professional geologists, hydrologists, or soil scientists.

Minnesota:

The Minnesota Board of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects, Geoscientists, and Interior Designers is responsible for the licensure and regulation of geoscientists, among other professions. The Minnesota Board currently recognizes geology and soil science as geoscience disciplines [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3900]. The Minnesota Board does require completion of postsecondary education before an applicant is eligible to take a licensing exam [Minnesota Administrative Rules Part 1800.3910 subp. 2. and 3.].

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

The proposed rule was developed by the GHSS Examining Board reviewing 2013 WI Act 114 and determining where changes in the GHSS code are needed to bring compliance.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The proposed rules were posted for a period of 14 days to solicit public comment on economic impact, including how the proposed rules may affect businesses, local government units, and individuals. No comments were received.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis are attached.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules will not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted at Jennifer.Garrett@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-2112.

Agency contact person:

Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 14497, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0497; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to Jake Pelegrin, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Office of Chief Legal Counsel, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 14497, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-0497, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the public hearing, scheduled for August 5, 2026, to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. GHSS 2.06 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 2.06 Examinations. (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional geologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of geology approved by the professional geologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice of geology examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical

and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of geology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply geologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional geology.

SECTION 2. GHSS 2.06 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 3. GHSS 3.05 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 3.05 Examinations. (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. An applicant for initial licensure as a professional hydrologist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of hydrology approved by the professional hydrologist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of hydrology. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply hydrologic principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional hydrology.

SECTION 4. GHSS 3.05 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 5. GHSS 4.02 (Note) is amended to read:

Note: ~~Applications~~ Instructions for applications are available ~~upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935; phone (608) 266-2112 or available for download from the department webpage: on the department's website at~~ http://dsps.wi.gov.

SECTION 6. GHSS 4.05 (1) is amended to read:

GHSS 4.05 Examinations. (1) REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS. All applicants for initial licensure as a professional soil scientist shall pass examinations for the professional practice of soil science approved by the professional soil scientist section. Required examinations shall include a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination. The fundamentals examination requires an understanding of the physical and mathematical sciences involved in the fundamentals of soil science. The principles and practice examination requires the ability to apply soil science principles and judgment to problems in the practice of professional soil science.

SECTION 7. GHSS 4.05 (2) and (3) are repealed.

SECTION 8. GHSS 4.06 (10) (Note) is amended to read:

Note: ~~Application forms~~ Instructions for applications are available ~~upon request to the Professional Soil Scientist Section of the board at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8935; phone (608) 266-2112 or available for~~

~~download from the department webpage:~~ on the department's website at
<http://dsps.wi.gov>.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

This Proposed Order of the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists, and Soil Scientists is approved for submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Dated _____

Chair