

2011 SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

SB 2173

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
January 17, 2011
Job Number 12927

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to an applicant otherwise qualified for registration as a professional engineer and additional qualifications.

Minutes:

2 attached testimonies

Chairman Senator Klein: Opened the hearing.

Senator Burckhard: Brought the bill. He explained that changing the date of the engineering exam would help an individual that has slipped through the cracks.

Michael H. Gunsch, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers: In favor of the bill. Testimony Attached.

Senator Laffen: The individual still has to take the exam?

Michael: Yes

Senator Andrist: It will facilitate the person wanting to take the exam.

Michael: Yes, the individual has already taken the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and past that portion. The initial intent of the law was to allow them to take the exam and then proceed with the Professional Engineers exam, which he has not taken. This would allow him to take that final exam, which was the original intent of the legislation.

Chairman Senator Klein: We are putting it into code, something we should have been doing anyway.

Michael: This is a correction of an oversight.

Senator Larsen: Does this date the way it is now, keep him from taking the test?

Michael: Yes, he would not be able to take this test because the way the date was set.

Dan Jonasson: This bill will affect him. He has been pursuing becoming a Professional Engineer but the date has stopped him from taking the Professional Engineering exam and from becoming a registered Professional Engineer.

Chairman Senator Klein: You've completed everything but this exam and because of the law you can't finish.

Senator Larsen: When would be the next time frame that you could take the test?

Dan: If the date isn't changed, he would have to go back to school and obtain his four year engineering degree before he could take the test.

Senator Laffen: To explain what has happened; you use to be able to take the exam by having experience in the field but it has been changed to education and experience.

Scott D. Zainhofsky, Professional Engineer: In support of the bill as an issue of fairness. Testimony Attached.

Chairman Senator Klein: Closed the hearing.

Senator Andrist: Moved to pass Senate Bill 2173.

Senator Schneider: Seconded the motion made.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – 7 No – 0

Senator Laffen to carry the bill

Date: 1/17
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Andrist Seconded By Senator Schneider

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Jerry Klein	✓		Senator Mac Schneider	✓	
VC George L. Nodland	✓		Senator Murphy	✓	
Senator John Andrist	✓				
Senator Lonnie J. Laffen	✓				
Senator Oley Larsen	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Laffen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2173: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Sen. Klein, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

SB 2173

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
March 9, 2011
15144

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature	<i>Ellen Letang</i>
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Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Applicant otherwise qualified for registration as a professional engineer and additional qualifications

Minutes:

Chairman Keiser: Opens the hearing on SB 2173.

Dale C. Heglund~PE/PLS President-North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers: (See attached testimony 1).

Chairman Keiser: We grandfathered a path of experience, there was a loophole so that one person was excluded because of timing, is that correct?

Dale Heglund: That is correct, but there might be another person.

Representative M Nelson: What was he excluded from doing to become an engineer?

Dale Heglund: The difference is licensure as a professional engineer which affords that person the ability to stamp public works. Essentially they are in training position up until that point and it is for the public safety. It's a level of education. It's a step process to obtain your licensure.

Representative M Nelson: Working for 20 years in the trade, before advancing to an engineering licensure, does not protect the public as well as a college degree?

Dale Heglund: Yes, the experience is a critical factor along with schooling.

Representative M Nelson: An engineering intern, does that require no college education, you can just start using them as an engineering intern?

Dale Heglund: Yes and no in regards to education. Those with education serve a higher roll and are on a faster tract but they do not have to have a formal education on the technical intern professional licensure path.

Chairman Keiser: Fully certified registered architects and engineers can stamp a planning document and the ability to stamp is the key.

Representative Sukut: I can't get my mind around the dates.

Dale Heglund: The date was set so the path for non-formal education had a window of opportunity and the board of registration who provides the authority to take the exams approved the one applicant the fundamentals of the first exam. That timing for taking the exam, shifted a little bit beyond their original thought process. The intent of the bill was met, the timing shifted, the application was approved, the passing of the first exam was shifted. This bill is to extend that date for finishing the first exam so that applicant who fell under all of the intent of the original bill, can take his second exam. He has had his experience in the field and now can take his final exam so he may stamp.

Representative Ruby: We are just moving back to capture one or possibly two people. After that is accomplished, this subsection isn't needed anymore because there is no way to go through this process any more to get your licensure, shouldn't there be a sunset clause or repeal added. It is something that can be taken care of now?

Dale Heglund: You are correct.

Representative Frantsvog: Are these dates adequate for both applicants?

Dale Heglund: I believe it is.

Chairman Keiser: Are these people going to resolve this in two years?

Dale Heglund: Yes.

Chairman Keiser: Anyone else here to testify in support of SB 2173?

Dan Jonasson~Asst Director of Public Works for Minot: (See attached testimony 2).

Representative M Nelson: What happens after you, that makes the next guy not worthy?

Dan Jonasson: I didn't have anything to do with the legislature with that, it was a decision out of my control.

Representative Ruby: My profession in Minot area and I deal with the public works department quite a bit, Dan Jonasson, he is worthy.

Representative Kreun: Dan worked with us for several years before going to Minot, we trained him well. I would expect he would be able to pass that without any problem.

Chairman Keiser: Anyone else here to testify in support, in opposition, in the neutral position of SB 2173? Closes the hearing, what are the wishes of the committee?

Representative Ruby: Moves to amend SB 2173 with a sunset clause.

Representative Sukut: Second.

Voice vote taken, motion passes.

Representative Frantsvog: Moves a Do Pass.

Representative Ruby: Second.

Roll call was taken for a Do Pass as Amended on SB 2173 with 14 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent and Representative Sukut is the carrier.

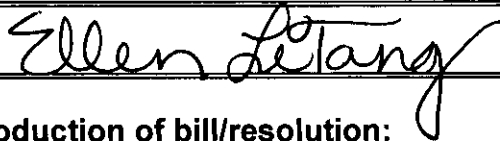
2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2173
March 14, 2011
15394

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Applicant otherwise qualified for registration as a professional engineer and additional qualifications

Work Session Committee Minutes:

Chairman Keiser: Opens the work session on SB 2173. **(Start on minute 1:25).**

Chairman Keiser: We have to have a motion to bring back SB 2173

Representative Ruby: Move to reconsider SB 2173.

Representative Kreun: Second.

Voice vote, motion carried.

Representative Ruby: Moves to remove the sunset.

Representative Nathe: Second.

Chairman Keiser: Further discussion?

Representative Ruby: I felt comfortable putting on the sunset clause when I asked the two gentlemen if they were ok with two years. There was discussion afterwards that sometimes that test can take several times of taking it to pass it. They said that could be restricting if they don't make it and put a lot of pressure on them.

Voice vote, motion carries.

Chairman Keiser: We not have SB 2173 before us in its original form.

Representative Ruby: Moves a Do Pass NOT Amended.

Representative Sukut: Second.

Chairman Keiser: Further discussion?

Roll call was taken for a Do Pass on SB 2173 with 13 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent and Representative Sukut is the carrier.

Due to error at the front desk, SB 2173 was amended with the words "prior to" be replaced with "before".

March 9, 2011

VR
3/9/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2173

Page 1, line 3, after "qualifications" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through July 31, 2013,
and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

Date: March 9

Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

House House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep Ruby Seconded By Rep Sukut

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser			Representative Amerman		
Vice Chairman Kasper			Representative Boe		
Representative Clark			Representative Gruchalla		
Representative Frantsvog			Representative M Nelson		
Representative N Johnson					
Representative Kreun					
Representative Nathe					
Representative Ruby					
Representative Sukut					
Representative Vigesaa					

Total Yes _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Sunset

Date: March 9, 2011

Roll Call Vote # 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

House House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep Frantsvog Seconded By Rep Ruby

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser	/		Representative Amerman	/	
Vice Chairman Kasper	/		Representative Boe	/	
Representative Clark	/		Representative Gruchalla	/	
Representative Frantsvog	/		Representative M Nelson	/	
Representative N Johnson	/				
Representative Kreun	/				
Representative Nathe	/				
Representative Ruby	/				
Representative Sukut	/				
Representative Vigesaa	/				

Total Yes 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Sukut

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: March 14, 2011

Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

House House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep Ruby Seconded By Rep Kruen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser			Representative Amerman		
Vice Chairman Kasper			Representative Boe		
Representative Clark			Representative Gruchalla		
Representative Frantsvog			Representative M Nelson		
Representative N Johnson					
Representative Kreun					
Representative Nathe					
Representative Ruby					
Representative Sukut					
Representative Vigesaa					

Total Yes _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

reconsideration

Date: March 14, 2011

Roll Call Vote # 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

House House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep Ruby Seconded By Rep Nathe

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser			Representative Amerman		
Vice Chairman Kasper			Representative Boe		
Representative Clark			Representative Gruchalla		
Representative Frantsvog			Representative M Nelson		
Representative N Johnson					
Representative Kreun					
Representative Nathe					
Representative Ruby					
Representative Sukut					
Representative Vigesaa					

voice vote - motion pass

Total Yes _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

removing sunset

Date: March 14, 2011

Roll Call Vote # 3

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2173

House House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep Ruby Seconded By Rep Sukut

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Keiser	✓		Representative Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Kasper	✓		Representative Boe	✓	
Representative Clark	✓		Representative Gruchalla	✓	
Representative Frantsvog	✓		Representative M Nelson	Ab	
Representative N Johnson	✓				
Representative Kreun	✓				
Representative Nathe	✓				
Representative Ruby	✓				
Representative Sukut	✓				
Representative Vigesaa	✓				

Total Yes 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Sukut

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2173: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, after "qualifications" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

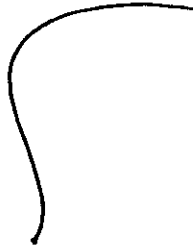
Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through July 31, 2013, and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2173: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SB 2173 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.



REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2173, as amended: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Rep. Keiser, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2173, as amended, was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

In lieu of the amendments adopted by the House as printed on page 941 of the House Journal, Senate Bill No. 2173 is amended as follows:

Page 1, line 12, replace "prior to" with "before"

Renumber accordingly

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2173

SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

January 17, 2011

9:00 am – Roosevelt Room

**North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers
Michael H. Gunsch, PE, Chairman
Legislative Committee**

Senate Bill 2173

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Michael Gunsch, Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers (NDSPE). I am a Professional Engineer, registered in North Dakota since August 1986, a past president of NDSPE and currently serve on the Licensure Qualifications and Practice Committee for the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). I am, here today, on behalf of NDSPE to speak in support of Senate Bill 2173.

NDSPE is an organization of registered professional engineers focused on promoting engineering education, the engineering profession and more importantly for this hearing today professional licensure. The ability to obtain licensure as a professional engineer in North Dakota is established state statute, administrative rules, and is governed under the authority of the North Dakota State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BOR). The path to licensure based on the "lawful practice in engineering work" or experience ended July 1, 2004 as noted in the original language contained in Senate Bill 2173. NDSPE supported this change as we believe qualifications for licensure are best achieved through first meeting minimum educational requirements, which include an Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology (ABET) accredited Bachelors of Science degree. This is followed by taking the Fundamentals of Engineering or FE exam, then after four years of practical experience, under the direct supervision of a registered professional engineer, taking and passing the Principals of Practice or PE exam.

The closure date for the experience path to licensure was selected with the intent to allow those individuals who qualified at that time the opportunity to take the FE exam, and if they passed to proceed toward licensure. Based on discussions with the BOR when this provision was originally proposed NDSPE was assured there were only a few individuals that were qualified to take the FE exam. I personally know two individuals who met the necessary criteria, have since taken and passed the FE exam and were moving toward licensure.

One individual afforded the opportunity by the BOR to take and pass the FE exam, however is now unable to complete the process due to the specific date established in statute. Unfortunately the BOR does not have the authority to waive this requirement; therefore, approval of Senate Bill 2173 is necessary to correct this inequity. The primary issue before us today is the equity and fairness in the process and its intent. NDSPE members take an oath to uphold ethical standards and our support of SB 2173 is in line with this oath and the objectives of our organization. In summary, let us place this issue in perspective. The original legislation to remove the experience path to licensure was flawed as it did not anticipate the situation we face today. The language revisions in SB 2173 are simple, straight forward and address the inadequacy of the provisions contained in Section 43-19.1-14. Therefore, NDSPE encourages the committee to give a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2173.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to speak to this matter, and I would be happy to respond to any questions.

SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE
January 17, 2011
9:00 AM – Roosevelt Room

Scott D. Zainhofsky, PE

SB 2173

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Scott Zainhofsky and a Professional Engineer registered in the great state of North Dakota since June of 2002. I am, here today, to stand in support of Senate Bill 2173.

To fully appreciate my reasoning for supporting this legislation, it is necessary to have a general understanding of the pertinent requirements for becoming registered as a Professional Engineer (PE) in North Dakota. Prior to 2004, it was possible (but very unlikely and difficult) to become a PE in North Dakota by passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam (FE) after 10 years of experience, acquiring an additional 10 years of experience, then passing the Principles of Practice exam (commonly known as the PE exam). This method of licensure was rescinded effective in 2004. The typical process (both in 2004 and today) for registration is to earn an accredited engineering degree (or be close enough to earning it to virtually guarantee that one will earn the degree), then pass the FE exam, acquire four years of experience (following both earning the degree and passing the FE exam), and finally pass the PE exam. Notice that the degree is essentially a prerequisite for the FE exam in the typical process.

The licensure revisions that took effect in 2004 inadvertently left the potential (and at least one known reality) for an individual to have passed the FE exam, be in the process of acquiring the required experience, and no longer qualify to sit for the PE exam. Simply put, it makes no sense and is patently unfair to the individual to allow someone to sit for (and pass) the FE exam, but then not allow that individual to sit for the PE exam. Passing the FE exam is simply one of the earliest steps in a long process leading to eventual licensure and is of little value without the future potential to be licensed.

The profession of engineering promotes, above all else, ethical conduct. Since the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers (NDSPE), of which I am the Secretary-Treasurer, played a major role in modifying the licensure rules that took effect in 2004, it is my obligation to attempt to fix known flaws in those modified rules. Therefore, I stand in support of SB 2173 and ask that you give it a strong do-pass recommendation.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak to this matter, today. I would be glad to stand for any questions you or the Committee may have.



North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers

A State Society of the
National Society of Professional Engineers

Testimony 1

HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

March 9, 2011 9:00 AM – Peace Garden Room

North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers
Dale C. Heglund, PE/PLS, President

Senate Bill 2173

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Dale Heglund, President of the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers (NDSPE). I am a Professional Engineer, registered in North Dakota since 1990. I am here today on behalf of NDSPE to speak in support of Senate Bill 2173.

NDSPE is an organization of registered professional engineers focused on promoting engineering education, the engineering profession and more importantly for this hearing today professional licensure. The ability to obtain licensure as a professional engineer in North Dakota is established state statute, administrative rules, and is governed under the authority of the North Dakota State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BOR). The path to licensure based on the "lawful practice in engineering work" or experience ended July 1, 2004 as noted in the original language contained in Senate Bill 2173. NDSPE supported this change as we believe qualifications for licensure are best achieved through first meeting minimum educational requirements, which include an Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology (ABET) accredited Bachelors of Science degree. This is followed by taking the Fundamentals of Engineering or FE exam, then after four years of practical experience, under the direct supervision of a registered professional engineer, taking and passing the Principals of Practice or PE exam.

The closure date for the experience path to licensure was selected with the intent to allow those individuals who qualified at that time the opportunity to take the FE exam, and if they passed to proceed toward licensure. Based on discussions with the BOR when this provision was originally proposed NDSPE was assured there were only a few individuals that were qualified to take the FE exam.

One individual afforded the opportunity by the BOR to take and pass the FE exam, however is now unable to complete the process due to the specific date established in statute. Unfortunately the BOR does not have the authority to waive this requirement; therefore, approval of Senate Bill 2173 is necessary to correct this inequity. The primary issue before us today is the equity and fairness in the process and its intent. NDSPE members take an oath to uphold ethical standards and our support of SB 2173 is in line with this oath and the objectives of our organization. In summary, let us place this issue in perspective. The original legislation to remove the experience path to licensure was flawed as it did not anticipate the situation we face today. The language revisions in SB 2173 are simple, straight forward and address the inadequacy of the provisions contained in Section 43-19.1-14. Therefore, NDSPE encourages the committee to give a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2173.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to speak to this matter, and I would be happy to respond to any questions.

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Bismarck, ND 58501
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web: www.NDSPE.org

Testimony 2

HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE

March 9, 2011

9:00 am – Peace Garden Room

Senate Bill 2173

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Dan Jonasson, Asst. Director of Public Works for the city of Minot. I am here today, on behalf of myself to speak in support of Senate Bill 2173.

I have been working toward becoming a registered professional engineer since graduating from the North Dakota State College of Science in 1991, with an Associate's Degree in Civil Engineering and Surveying technology. I passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and received my EIT from the State Board of Registration in December of 2005. In 2009 I applied to the State Board of Registration for permission to write the professional Engineers (PE) exam and become registered as a professional engineer in the State of ND. It was at that time that I was informed that after almost 20 years of working toward my goal of becoming a registered professional engineer. I was no longer eligible to write the exam due to a change in the legislation which did not allow me to write the PE exam due to not passing my FE exam prior to July 1, 2004.

In discussions with the State Board of Registration (BOR) they were not able to make any exceptions to this statute, so my only option was to pursue having this arbitrary date that was selected of July 1, 2004, changed through the legislative process or return to college and obtain my Bachelors degree in engineering.

This is why I stand before you today, asking for your support on Senate Bill 2173. So that I may continue to pursue becoming a registered professional engineer and join my many esteemed colleagues and mentors in the engineering field.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak on this matter. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

March 09, 2011

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2173

Page 1, line 3, after "qualifications" insert "; and to provide an expiration date"

Page 1, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act is effective through July 31, 2013,
and after that date is ineffective."

Renumber accordingly