



**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

CHAMPION | GUIDE | ADVANCE | UNITE

2020 BY THE NUMBERS
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
YEAR-END REPORT

AN UNUSUAL YEAR

Despite unprecedented circumstances, we experienced great success and built a solid foundation for 2021.

The National Society of Professional Engineers Government Relations team took on some new and unexpected challenges in 2020, as did everyone - people and organizations alike.

When COVID forced the shutdown of nearly all communal aspects of society, we made a hard pivot. Turning our attention to the myriad changes happening at the federal and state levels, we kept members as updated as possible on relevant legislation and Executive Orders.

We created a dynamic map that showed where executive and legislative action relevant to our members was happening. And we created state-specific summaries of all of the activity.

While our primary focus was staying abreast of pandemic-related changes, we continued tracking the core issues that have been at the heart of NSPE advocacy - Licensing, Infrastructure, QBS, Emerging Technology, STEM Education, and Sustainability.

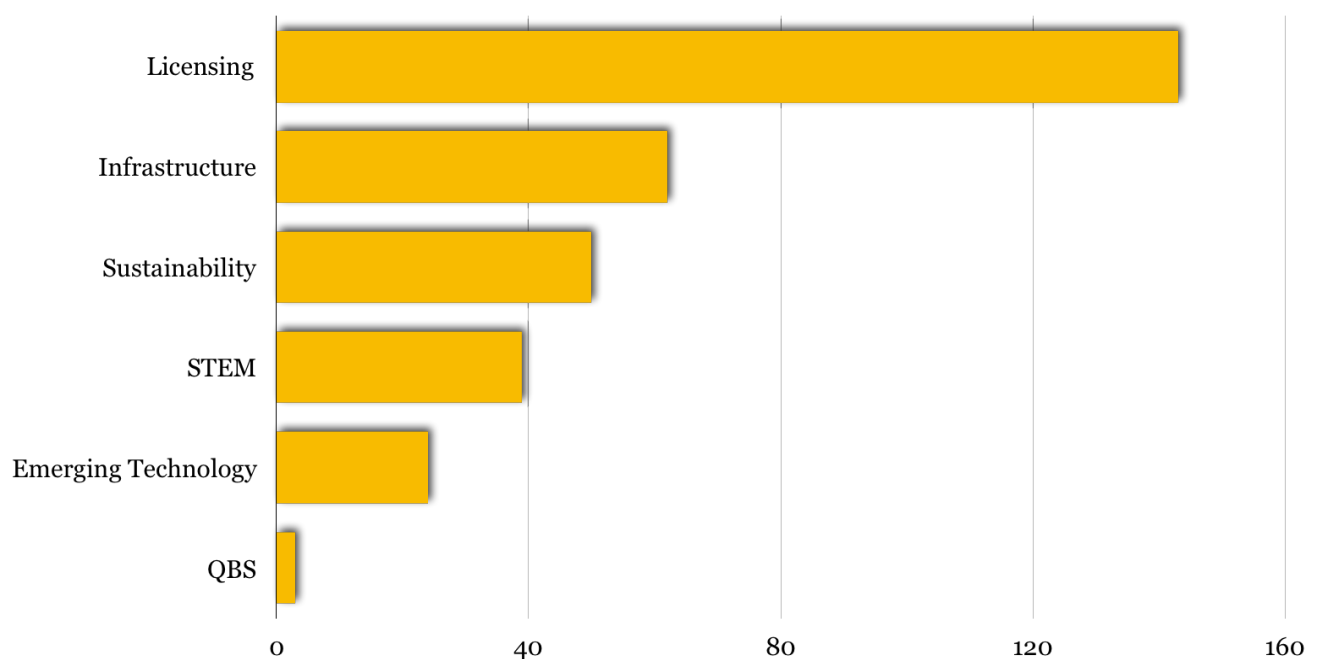
Despite all of the complications and challenges associated with COVID, we and our members remained engaged on our core issues. As a result, we enjoyed numerous advocacy successes. Successes we can build on next year.

The following report tells the story of those successes, summarizes lessons learned, and establishes best practices that came out of this year's activities.

OUR 2020 STATS

We enjoyed a high level of engagement from NSPE members. Engagement that, combined with staff efforts, resulted in a high degree of success on our legislative issues.

In 2020, NSPE's Government Relations staff actively tracked a total of 329 separate pieces of legislation. "Actively tracked" means the staff took a position (support or oppose) and received regular updates on the bill's status. As Chart 1 indicates, most of those bills - 143 - were licensing-specific. The remaining 186 bills were divided among our remaining core issues, with infrastructure being the issue with the next-highest number of bills. Though we tracked hundreds, we took action on just 25, and NSPE members logged an impressive number of actions on those advocacy campaigns.

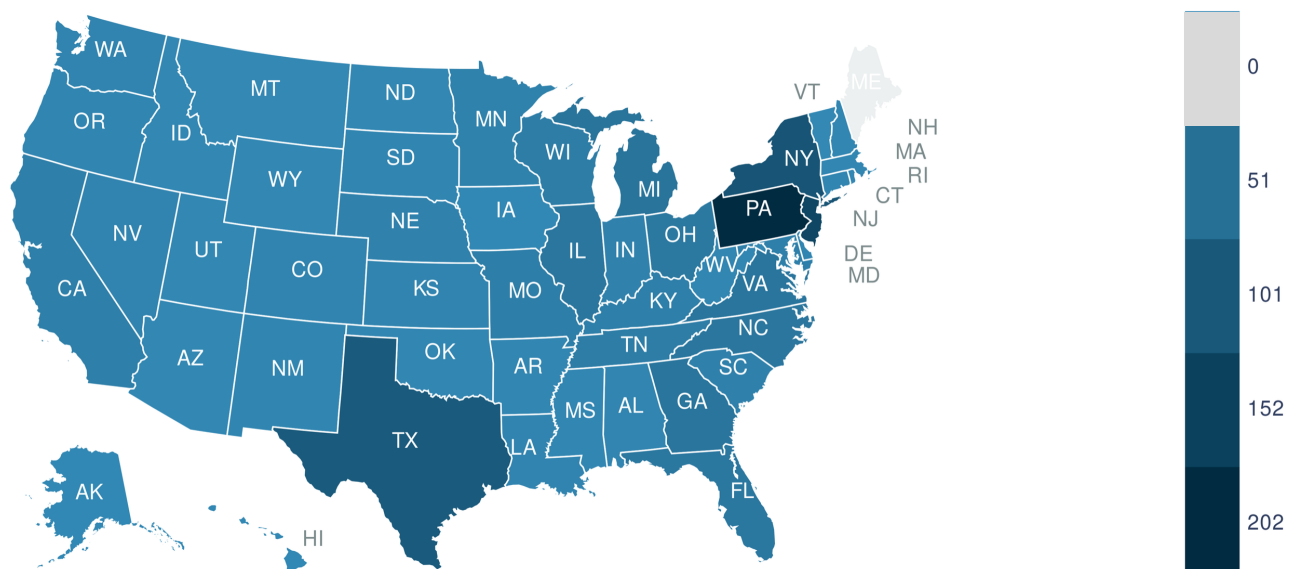


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When the Government Relations team identified a piece of legislation that was especially troubling or promising, we reached out to NSPE members and asked you to engage with your elected officials. We asked, and you responded! NSPE members in 49 states answered when we called, and as a result, over 1,500 of you contacted your elected officials nearly 3,000 times! That's a 94% increase over 2019 activity levels.

The image below represents activity levels by state - showing how often members participated in our legislative campaigns. Darker blue colors correspond with higher numbers of actions.



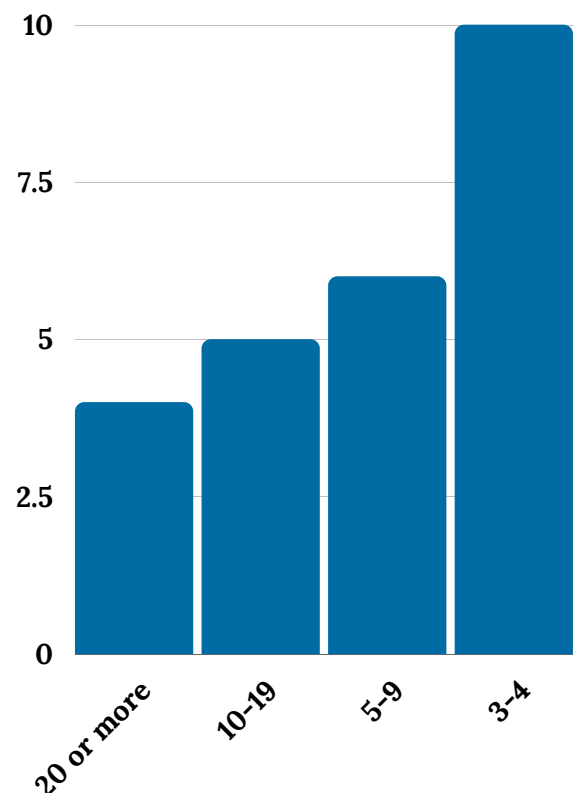
OUR 2020 STATS

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Government Relations staff also consistently connected with elected officials in 2020, reaching out at least once to nearly 100 lawmakers. The staff had at least 5 separate interactions with 15 Congressional offices this year, as well as multiple interactions with 17 House and Senate Committee staff from 12 Committees and Subcommittees. The chart below shows the number of interactions we had with Congressional staff. Note that we exchanged emails, phone calls and zoom calls at least three times with 25 different offices or committees, and 4 offices heard from us over 20 times.

As a result, we were regularly included in discussions about draft legislative language, and had numerous opportunities to submit amendments, as well as educate Congressional staff on the value of licensure, and the importance of having PEs involved in the development of emerging technologies like autonomous vehicles.

Our continued efforts at building positive working relationships with Congressional offices also enabled us to host members and their staff on our Fireside Chat discussions in August and September.



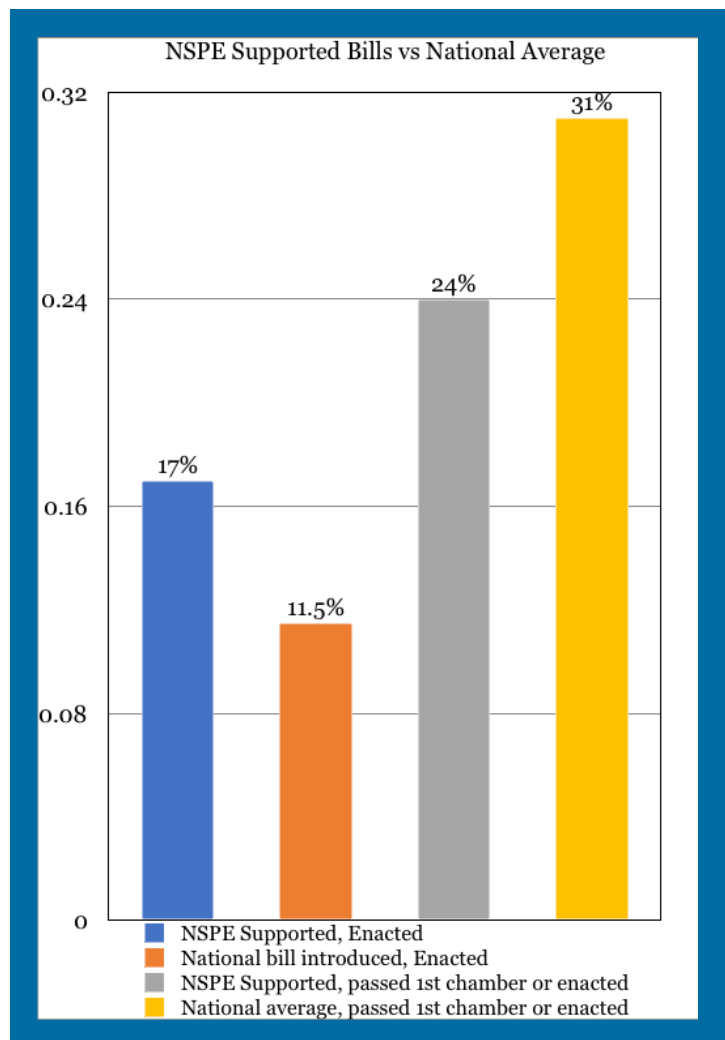
OUR 2020 RESULTS

The high level of engagement, combined with NSPE staff outreach, resulted in significant advancement of NSPE policy priorities.

The legislative result of all this outreach was a 17% success rate - meaning 17% of the state and federal bills on which we actively campaigned and lobbied were signed into law. NSPE's success rate beat the national average by nearly six percentage points.

Additionally, 24% of the bills we supported were either enacted or passed out of their original chamber. Here, NSPE is a few percentage points behind the national average, but still achieved a high rate of success.

























This statistic (bill passed out of their original chamber) may seem odd, but it's very valuable. A bill that's voted out of its original chamber has strong support. Knowing that helps guide our decisions with regards to the issues and bills we should spend time and energy on next year.



OTHER LEARNINGS

Legislative wins weren't the only successes to come out of our 2020 policy and advocacy engagement. We also learned important information about members of Congress who do and don't support our issues.

The high level of engagement from members and staff also enabled us to identify potential champions in Congress. As the image below shows, there is a correlation between some of our engagement and the number of times a Member of Congress sponsored or co-sponsored a bill that we supported.

Official	Staff Interactions	Bills sponsored/cosponsored
 Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-7)	39 	5 
 Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4)	33 	3 
 Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	26 	4 
 Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA-1)	21 	2 
 Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)	13 	2 
 Leader Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY)	12 	0 
 Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-6)	12 	6 
 Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)	11 	2 

Most of these lawmakers have been highly receptive to NSPE's message, concerns, and priorities. NSPE staff have connected and built positive working relationships with staff in these offices. Relationships that will likely make them strong allies going forward. Knowing we have a shared interest in certain issues helps the Government Relations team strategize more effectively when seeking legislative support in the next Congressional session.

LOOKING AHEAD

The data we have, as a result of policy and advocacy engagement, helps us create a roadmap for 2021, identifying the best ways to use our limited resources.

Using data like sponsorships and voting records, we have identified several members of Congress as "champions." These members have sponsored numerous bills that NSPE supported during the 116th Congress. This graphic shows only the top 10, but NSPE's Government Relations staff identified 60 members of Congress who sponsored 5 or more bills that NSPE actively supported.

Official	Lawmaker Status	Bills sponsored/cosponsored
Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL-11)	Champion	13
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3)	Champion	12
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18)	Champion	11
Rep. Eddie Bernice "Eddie" Johnson (D-TX-20)	Champion	10
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)	Champion	10
Outgoing Rep. Daniel "Dan" Lipinski (D-IL-3)	Champion	10
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20)	Champion	10
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9)	Champion	9
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)	Champion	9
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-6)	Champion	8

Like those identified on the previous page, these champions are members we know we can work with in the 117th.

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Splicing the data a different way, we've identified members of Congress who frequently heard from our members, but took no relevant action.

Several offices that received high levels of engagement from NSPE members took little or no action to support the issues about which members advocated.

While the lack of support is disappointing, identifying those who were unresponsive to member concerns isn't about shaming elected officials. Instead, its about identifying offices with which we have some leverage.

It's another reason that NSPE member engagement is so important. It gives us a strong argument when asking for support in the future. When we meet with these offices, we'll be able to tell them (and provide the data to back it up) that their constituents not only care about a given issue, but, more importantly, have made it known that they want their lawmakers to take action. Then our meeting isn't just about what NSPE wants. It's about what constituents want, which is a much stronger talking point.

Grassroots Actions	Bills sponsored/cosponsored
96	1
96	0
39	5
31	1
31	0
30	1
28	0
23	3
22	0

CONCLUSION

NSPE members and staff have a lot to be proud of in 2020. Together we accomplished exciting, important things, and set ourselves up to build on those accomplishments in 2021.

Together, we accomplished a lot in 2020. Given the circumstances - pandemic, civil unrest, bitter election - it's a fact about which you should all be proud. Not only were we able to respond to the pandemic and keep NSPE members abreast of vital information, we took significant steps forward on our legislative priorities.

In 2021, we expect many of the common licensing threats and opportunities to continue. Efforts to undermine the licensing process, however, will have a new twist - COVID.

We're already seeing anti-licensure organizations point to emergency measures taken during the pandemic as evidence that licensure is onerous and needs to either be significantly dialed back, or eliminated altogether. The argument is that since lawmakers felt comfortable easing licensing requirements during an emergency, those requirements were never needed at all.

Needless to say, NSPE disagrees, as do several other licensed professions. The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing is already strategizing its response to this attack. NSPE, as well, is developing tools that are specific to this threat and respond directly to the misguided assumptions being made by anti-licensure groups.

We'll have our work cut out for us. But as 2020 has shown, NSPE staff and members have no problem rising to a challenge. We met several head on this year, and there's no doubt we'll do it again next year.



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