



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-2  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

**Division of  
Design  
Professionals**

**PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS  
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 2012.01**

**Obligation to Report Unregistered Activity**

The State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors (“PLS Board”) is issuing this bulletin in response to recent information that has come to its attention regarding land surveying practices in Rhode Island which is resulting in the promotion of unregistered land surveying in Rhode Island and is contrary to the public interest. Specifically, there are individuals and entities that are engaging in unregistered or unlicensed land surveying in Rhode Island and then procuring Rhode Island registered professional land surveyors to validate the prior unregistered land surveying work.

The relevant sections of Rhode Island law that prohibit registered land surveyors from validating previously performed unregistered land surveying are R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-8.1-14 and 5-8.1-15(b)(3) and (4).

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-8.1-14 states that:

[i]t is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice land surveying in this state, as defined by this chapter, or to use in connection with his or her name or assume, or advertise any title or description tending to convey the impression that he or she is a land surveyor unless that person is registered or exempted from registration under this chapter.

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-8.1-15(b)(3), and (4) provide grounds upon which a registered Rhode Island Land Surveyor may be disciplined (by the revocation, suspension, censure and/or administrative penalty) for validating unregistered land surveying work in Rhode Island. These grounds include: “practicing land surveying in this state in violation of the standards of professional conduct established by the board” (R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-8.1-15(b)(3)) and/or committing “fraud, deceit, recklessness, gross negligence, misconduct, or incompetence in the practice of land surveying” (R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-8.1-15(b)(4)).

It is, therefore, incumbent upon any Rhode Island registered Professional Land Surveyor who is requested to confirm, validate, or certify any previously performed unregistered land surveying in Rhode Island to report that activity to the PLS Board. Any failure to report such unregistered conduct and/or any participation in unregistered land surveying will be sanctionable under R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-8.1-14 and 5-8.1-15(b)(3) and (4).

August 30, 2012  
State Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors  
John Mensinger, Chairman