

## **Position Statement - Certification and Licensing of Software Engineers**

**This was approved on 10 November 2000 by the Board of Governors of the IEEE Computer Society.**

Whereas on May 21, 1993, the IEEE Computer Society Board of Governors approved a motion to establish a steering committee for evaluating, planning, and coordinating actions related to establishing software engineering as a profession.

Whereas on 5 June 1998, the IEEE Computer Society Board of Governors approved a motion forming the Software Engineering Coordinating Committee (SWEcc). The SWEcc charter included responsibility to foster the evolution of software engineering as a professional computing discipline. The committee was charged to sponsor a number of projects in support of this goal. These include documenting the current body of knowledge, recommending accreditation criteria, developing model curricula, maintaining a code of ethics, and defining performance standards.

Recognizing the potential for confusion between licensing and certification, the IEEE Computer Society reaffirms its commitment to the professionalization of software engineering, including *certification*. The Computer Society reaffirms its willingness to work with any professional society or group of professional societies to achieve the goal of professionalization.

Whereas, it is the policy of the IEEE to be neutral on the licensing of electrical engineering professionals.

And therefore, to be consistent with IEEE policy, the IEEE Computer Society is neutral on the licensing of software engineering professionals.

Nevertheless, the IEEE Computer Society acknowledges the right of government agencies to use licensing as a tool to manage risk to the public.

Therefore, the IEEE Computer Society may work with licensing authorities worldwide, when asked, to provide the expertise of its members, in a manner consistent with IEEE practices and policies and where such cooperation does not lead to conflict with national professional societies.