

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 54

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 54, as amended, would make changes concerning the Board of Technical Professions and its regulated professions. The bill would:

- Standardize language and make clarifying technical changes, including updates to the definitions relating to the professions of architecture, engineering, geology, landscape architecture, and surveying;
- Add "safety" to the charge of the Board of Technical Professions and clarify the process for recording any proceedings of the Board;
- Make changes in the membership requirements for members of the Board of Technical Professions by requiring the applicable members to be licensed in Kansas (not just to reside in the state) and to specify Board membership eligibility by requiring "responsible charge" experience in those professions;
- Allow the Board to charge a fee of not more than \$200 for a late renewal of a license, and also to charge a fee of not more than \$200 (currently \$100) to reactive an inactive license or to reinstate a canceled license;

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Clarify how a roster of individuals licensed under KSA 74-7001 can be made available under the Kansas Open Records Act;
- Allow the Board to adopt rules and regulations regarding:
 - Ethical marketing of professional services,
 - Canceled, inactive, and emeritus licensure status, and
 - Minimum standards for boundary surveys, mortgage title inspection, American land title association surveys and other surveys as necessary to control the quality of surveying;
- Establish minimum qualifications of applicants seeking licensure as professional geologists;
- Make technical amendments regarding professional document seals for licensees and clarifying the penalty for allowing documents not prepared by the licensee to include the licensee's seal or name;
- Clarify language regarding licenses from other states;
- Prohibit a licensee from practicing any technical profession after the expiration of a license and make other changes to the licensure law regarding the voluntary decision to no longer practice a technical profession;
- Add "professional" to the terms "geologists" and "surveyors" as listed throughout various statutes of the Board;
- Clarify exemptions to the architectural licensure requirements;

- Clarify exemptions to the surveying licensure requirements, including types of mapping conducted by governmental agencies;
- Establish exemptions to the geology licensure requirements;
- Clarify that a Certificate of Authorization is required by any business practicing any of the regulated professions prior to doing any business in Kansas;
- Allow the Board to assess costs and attorney fees against any person or entity for violation of statutes, rules and regulations, or orders of the Board;
- Add immunity from liability to those individuals whose participation in disciplinary proceedings is in good faith and without malicious intent, regarding licensure, re-issuance of a license, or criminal prosecution; and
- Clarify the supervisory responsibilities of professionals with multiple offices.

Background

At the Senate Committee hearing, testimony in support of the bill was provided by representatives of the Board of Technical Professions who indicated the legislative proposal was to provide a comprehensive update and reorganization of statutes, to modify statutes relating to changes in professional practice, to update terminology, and to improve the clarity of statutes.

Testimony in support of the bill also was provided by representatives of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas, the American Institute of Architects in Kansas, the American Society of Landscape Architects-Prairie Gateway Chapter, the Association of Environmental

and Engineering Geologists, the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors, and the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.

Testimony opposing the bill was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas County Highway Association, and the League of Kansas Municipalities.

The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs amended the bill:

- To remove language relating to the "ethical marketing of professional services"; and
- To add a surveying exemption on certain types of mapping conducted by government agencies.

The two amendments were made to address concerns raised by opponents of the bill.

The fiscal note as provided by the Division of the Budget for the bill as introduced indicated enactment of the bill could increase revenue by up to \$94,000 based on the fees assessed for letting a license expire and on the increased fees to reactive a license. Actual data from FY 2012 was used to estimate the revenue increase. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2014 Governor's Budget Report*.