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10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

HB 1256

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1256

House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1/27/03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	13.0-end
4	x		10.0-11.9
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Judith Hamma</i>			

Minutes: Chairman Keiser opened the hearing on HB 1256.

Rep. Matt Klein, District 40, introduced HB 1256. This bill makes changes in the engineering registration law. Retired engineers would be allowed to continue to use their title but not be required to pay full engineering registration fees. The second portion of the bill relates to taking the exam and about valid engineering training certificate. The third portion addresses some of the degrees that are related to engineering. After a set period of time, these affiliates would be qualified to take the exam. The fourth area addresses continuing education, especially with the availability of on line course work, and the standardization issues between states.

Lawrence Woodbury, ND Board of Registration for PE/LS, appeared in support of HB 1256.

(See Attachment # 1: testimony and extensive background information prepared for HB 1256)

Rep. Ekstrom: According to the fiscal note, revenues will decrease \$3000 per biennium.

Demographics concern me, any consideration that you'll have more retired members than active members?

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House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB 1256
Hearing Date 1/27/03

Woodbury: Yes, after a short period of time, we expect the effect to be minimal in the change.

Dennis Meyer, representing himself, appeared in support of HB 1256. (See Attachment # 2)

Kevin Nelson, Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor Intern, appeared in support of HB 1256. He is presently the Secretary/Treasurer of the ND Society of Professional Engineers and on behalf of NDSPE, submitted four resolutions in support of HB 1256. (See Attachment # 3: written personal testimony and resolutions)

Chairman Keiser: Would you explain the engineering and training certificate for the committee, please? And can that certificate can be obtained in all the new scenarios that are being created here with HB 1256?

Nelson: The certificate is obtained after required education and taking first of two 8 hour exams. It allows an individual to be recognized as an engineer who is training under a licensed professional. Yes, that's correct.

Grant Levi, Deputy Director of NDDOT, appeared for **Dave Sprynczynatyck**, Director of ND Dept. of Transportation, to testify in support of HB 1256. (See Attachment # 4)

Larry Smith, representing himself and the ND Society of Professional Land Surveyors, appeared in support of HB 1256 and offered oral testimony. He distributed copies of letters of support from all chapters of NDSPLS. (See Attachment # 5)

Gary Arman, Chairman of Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, appeared in support of HB 1256 and offered oral testimony.

Richard Hammond, appeared in opposition to HB 1256. (See Attachment # 6)

Rep. Klein: Isn't continuing education, updating skills necessary?

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House Industry, Business and Labor Committee

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Hammond: The Board can't write requirements for all facets of engineers, the engineering field is too diverse.

Rep. Kasper: Are you licensed in states surrounding North Dakota? How familiar are you with other state's requirements?

Hammond: No and no, I am not.

Roger Dawser, appeared in opposition to HB 1256 and gave oral testimony regarding his objections to continuing education. The only benefit the annual registration fee of \$50 serves is to satisfy one's ego, increase self worth and have the prestige of a PEF following your name.

Rep. Kasper: How do you educate yourself and how much time per year do you spend doing so?

Dawser: I review published trade materials, exchange information through user groups, and take training courses.

Rep. Severson: Do I understand that you don't need to be registered with the board to maintain your current employment? So if this bill goes through, you probably will give it all up?

Dawser: That's right.

As there was no one else present to testify in opposition to HB 1256, the hearing was closed.

Prior to the afternoon's scheduled hearings, **Chairman Keiser** called for committee work on HB 1256.

Rep. Klein: We've done continuing education for the cosmetologists, the appraisers, they still have to go through rules to implement whether the individual can have a complaint etc. I move a do pass. **Rep. Severson** seconded the motion. The results of the roll call vote were 13-1-0.

Rep. Klein will carry this bill on the floor.

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FISCAL NOTE
 Requested by Legislative Council
 01/14/2003

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1256

1A. State fiscal effect: Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,307	\$0	\$42,307
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,307	\$0	\$45,307
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. Narrative: Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

Any fiscal impact due to HB 1256 will affect only the North Dakota State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The ND State Board of Registration operates on revenues collected from registered professional engineers and registered land surveyors and does not receive any General Fund monies.

Section 1. of HB 1256, which is a proposal to create a new subsection allowing for a retired status of licensure, will result in a decrease in expected revenues. It is anticipated that the registration fee for a retired status of license will be significantly less than an active license. However, this will impact on a small number of license holders and the overall effect on the total Board revenues will be minimal.

Section 2. of HB 1256, which is an amendment to the existing engineering registration laws, will have no fiscal impact.

Section 3. of HB 1256, which is a new subsection to the existing engineering registration laws, will have no fiscal impact.

Section 4. of HB 1256, which is a new subsection to the existing engineering registration laws, will have no fiscal impact.

Section 5. of HB 1256, which is a new section to the engineering registration laws, will have a fiscal impact on both revenues and expenditures. The Board is anticipating that a fee appropriate only to cover costs will be assessed. Therefore, the overall effect on the Board's current operating funds will be minimal.

3. State fiscal effect detail: For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:

A. Revenues: Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

Section 1. of HB 1256 will affect approximately 75 registrants each biennium. The Board is anticipating a retired status registration fee of \$40.00 per biennium, or \$20.00 a year. This will affect revenues by an approximate reduction of \$3,000.00 per biennium.

La Costa Rickford
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10/2/03
 Date

