

HB 1771 -- LICENSURE OF ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, AND PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SPONSOR: Elmer

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensure of architects, professional engineers, professional land surveyors, and professional landscape architects. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Changes the term "landscape architect" to "professional landscape architect" and the name of the board regulating them in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Professional Landscape Architects;
- (2) Requires any person appointed to the board to have been engaged in the practice of the specified field as a Missouri licensee for at least 10 years immediately preceding the appointment. When a vacancy occurs on the board and the vacancy to be filled requires the appointment of an architect, the President of the American Institute of Architects/Missouri must submit to the Director of the Division of Professional Registration within the department a list of five names who are qualified and willing to fill the vacancy. The bill repeals the provisions abolishing the Landscape Architectural Council and the Landscape Architectural Division in the department;
- (3) Increases the maximum compensation for a board member from \$50 to \$75 for each day the board meets;
- (4) Repeals provisions requiring the board to inform in writing each applicant for licensure of the time and place for an examination;
- (5) Requires architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects to be in responsible charge of specified work product that can affect the health, safety, and welfare of the public;
- (6) Specifies that each architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, and professional landscape architect must affix his or her personal seal to all final technical submissions instead of all final documents as currently specified. Technical submissions must include, but are not limited to, drawings, specifications, plats, surveys, exhibits, reports, and certifications of construction prepared by the licensee or under the licensee's immediate personal supervision;

(7) Specifies that licensing requirements will not apply to the practice of architecture when a person renders architectural services in connection with a privately owned structure containing less than 2,000 square feet and which is not a part of a project which contains more than one structure. Currently, the requirements do not apply when a person renders architectural services in connection with a privately owned structure containing less than 20,000 cubic feet and which is not part of a project which contains more than one structure;

(8) Specifies that architect licensing requirements will not apply to a person who remodels or repairs a privately owned multiple family dwelling containing three or four families if the alteration, renovation, or remodeling does not affect architectural or engineering safety features of the building or to construction observation by persons customarily engaged in contracting work;

(9) Requires an applicant for licensure as an architect to also hold a certified Intern Development Program record with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and have passed all divisions of the Architect Registration Examination. If an applicant fails to score a passing grade, the applicant may apply for reexamination by the division in accordance with guidelines established by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards or its successor;

(10) Specifies that a license for an architect, engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architecture must expire on the renewal date, but may, within three months of the certificate renewal date or at the discretion of the board, upon payment of the required fee, have his or her license reinstated. Currently, an architect, engineering, land surveyor, or landscape architecture license that is not renewed within three months of the renewal date must be suspended automatically and expires within nine months if the licensee fails to pay the reinstatement fee;

(11) Specifies that the practice as a professional engineer in Missouri also includes rendering expert technical testimony; planning the use of land, air, and water; and construction observation;

(12) Allows an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor who fails to make the necessary examination grade to apply for reexamination in accordance with the guidelines established by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying or its successor;

(13) Specifies that the practice of professional land surveying also includes the preparation of property descriptions, the

surveying and establishment of rights-of ways and easements, and work involving design surveys and expert technical testimony;

(14) Specifies that if a licensee is granted inactive status, he or she may return to active license status by notifying the board, paying the appropriate fees, and meeting all other established requirements of the board. If an inactive licensee does not maintain a current license in any state for a five-year period immediately prior to requesting reactivation, he or she may be required to take the examination as the board deems necessary to determine the person's qualifications;

(15) Repeals the provisions requiring the board to issue a license to any architect, professional engineer, professional land surveyor or landscape architect who has been licensed in another state, in a territory or possession of the United States, or in another country if the board is satisfied by proof that the applicant's qualifications meet or exceed Missouri's requirements for initial licensure and allows the board, in its discretion, to license one of these individuals when he or she has qualifications that are at least equivalent to Missouri's requirements for licensure;

(16) Defines "professional landscape architecture" as the performance of professional services in connection with the development of land; the preservation, enhancement, or determination of land uses; the investigation, selection, and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate use; and other similar duties specified in the bill;

(17) Requires an applicant to be eligible for a professional landscape architect license to make a passing grade on each examination. The passing grade must be fixed by the board but must not exceed the current passing grade determined by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards;

(18) Repeals the provisions allowing the board to license, in its discretion and without examination, any landscape architect certified, licensed, or registered in another state or territory of the United States when his or her qualifications are at least equivalent to Missouri's requirements and the provisions allowing the board to refuse to issue or renew a license for a specified cause. The provisions of the bill cannot be construed to require licensing of a person or corporation who is offering, but not performing or rendering, landscape architectural services if the person or corporation is licensed to practice landscape architecture in the state or country of residence or principal place of business; and

(19) Repeals provisions requiring the board to issue a

professional land surveying license to an individual who has 20 years of satisfactory experience, passes specified examinations, and pays the required fee.