

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Brunk at 9:10am on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Tietze – Excused

Committee staff present:

Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department

Stephen Bainum, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Philip J. Meyer, Kansas Board of Technical Professions,

Rick Worrel, American Council of Engineering Companies

David Contag, American Society of Landscape Architects

Bob Fincham, AIA

Theresa Ferguson, Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologist

Bill Fox, Kansas Society of Land Surveyors

Ron Gaches, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Stuart Owsley, Architect

E. Tom Pyle, Jr. Architect

Jim F. Sullivan, Jr. Architect

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB24 — Technical professions act; definitions clarification.

Chairman Brunk called the meeting to order and asked for any bill introductions. There were none.

Chairman Brunk opened the hearing on **SB24**. Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes, gave a briefing on the bill.

Written testimony as a proponent of **SB24** was presented by:

Philip J. Meyer who testified that this was a clean-up bill that was needed to provide additional clarification to allow the five regulated Professions to continue to practice their professions in the same manner as they have in the past. ([Attachment 1](#)) There were no questions from the Committee.

Rick Worrel said that the Board of Technical Professions met over the summer and agreed to the language before you today to fix a potential and unintended situation and ask for your support of **SB24**. ([Attachment 2](#)) There were no questions from the Committee.

David Contag said that he supports the work of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions. He indicated that they were in agreement with the proposed changes and that they will be beneficial to the

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allied professions regulated by the Board. ([Attachment 3](#))

Bob Fincham said that there are two clarifications that are needed for a smooth implementation. This bill makes those changes and we are in full support of the revisions. ([Attachment 4](#))

Theresa Ferguson said that the Kansas City - Omaha Section of the AEG participated in and contributed to the preparations of the revised statutes for the Kansas Board of Technical Professions and supports their passage without amendment. ([Attachment 5](#))

Bill Fox said that last years updates were long overdue and the changes being proposed today are of a "clean-up" nature. ([Attachment 6](#))

Ron Gaches said that some concerns arose last summer by outside legal counsel that the language in **SB54** was too vague about who could prepare technical drawings, specifications and other submittals. Some felt that the language allowed only architects to submit those items and that was never the intent of **SB54**. **SB24** was agreed to as an acceptable solution and we fully support the clean-up language. ([Attachment 7](#))

Written testimony as an opponent of **SB24** was presented by:

Stuart Owsley who recommended three solutions to the problem.

1. Reject **SB24** and introduce a bill to repeal the entire **SB349** and revert back to the Legislative Act in effect prior to July 1, 2014.
 2. Adopt an amended version of **SB24** with the appropriate corrections for **SB349** passed in the 2014 Legislature.
 3. Reject **SB24** and pass **HB2224** as introduced by the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs.
- ([Attachment 8](#))

E. Tom Pyle, Jr asked how he could lose the ability to practice as he always has due to a decision by the KSBTP to take his original license definitions and apply them only to the Engineer's definitions? How is that ethical or just? Architects should be allowed to continue to practice architectural engineering as it relates to their building design with the same restraint that engineers have. ([Attachment 9](#))

Jim Sullivan said that we are now on the path of drawing lines in the sand, defending "our" purview in a never-ending battle of defending what is "ours" and what is "yours" or who stepped over the line. This overlooks a thousand year tradition among professions and the complex nature of design itself. We need to correct this injustice which is headed toward minimizing the Practice of Architecture. ([Attachment 10](#)) The three opponents to the bill stood for questions from the Committee.

Chairman Brunk closed the hearing on **SB24**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am

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