

Testimony Before the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 301
By the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions
1:30 PM, Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Room 785 DSOB

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Jean Boline, Executive Director of the Board of Technical Professions. We appreciate the opportunity to testify before the committee today in support of Senate Bill 301. Senate Bill 301 makes changes to the term lengths of some Board member positions which begin July 1, 2012. The Board of Technical Professions regulates the practice of 5 professions and is made up of 13 members; 3 architects, 3 engineers, 1 member licensed as an engineer and also as a land surveyor, 2 land surveyors, 1 landscape architect, 1 geologist and 2 public members.

Currently 8 of those 13 positions expire the end of June, 2012. Those positions are 1 architect, 1 engineer, the engineer/land surveyor, both surveyor members; both public members and the geology member. If there were to be no reappointments and all of the current members were replaced the Board would lose all of its surveying expertise, both public members and half of the engineers at one time.

The purpose of this bill is to stagger these terms so that this scenario will not happen again. Replacing all 8 members would disrupt the work of the Board. It takes some time for new members to become familiar with their role as a Board member and how the Board functions.

By making the proposed changes to the lengths of the terms of certain members with the 2012 appointments, in the future there would be only 3 or 4 members up for appointment in any one year.

The change in line 3 on page 2 from 3 terms to 4 terms allows those members appointed to shortened terms in 2012 the opportunity, upon reappointment, to serve an equal length of time as current members.

The mission of the Board of Technical Professions is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Kansas in regard to the practice of these five professions. One of the Board's primary functions in carrying out this mission is disciplinary action. Replacing 8 members of the Board at one time disrupts the continuity of this function and greatly slows the process.

Thank you for your time this morning. I will answer any questions the committee has.