

Standard Bill for Licensing of Engineers

Proposed by the American Association of Engineers—A Combination of Fourteen Existing and Proposed License Laws—Complies With Fundamentals Formulated by the United States Joint Committee, Says Secretary Drayer—State Examiners

REGISTRATION and licensing of engineers is the subject in which many members of the profession are the most interested at present. In Canada, bills are about to be introduced in Saskatchewan and other legislatures, and the Engineering Institute of Canada has appointed a special committee that has been asked to report on May 1st whether it is advisable to ask for legislation, and, if so, to submit a standard bill that can be introduced in all the provinces so as to secure uniform legislation.

In the United States, similar bills are about to be introduced in the legislatures of California, Ohio, Colorado, Michigan, Montana, Iowa, Oregon and Indiana.

May Apply to Canada

The following draft copy of a standard bill just prepared by the American Association of Engineers will be of general interest, and may be of assistance to the committee of the Engineering Institute in bringing forth suggestions and criticisms from Canadian engineers, stating whether the Canadian standard bill should be similar to that adopted by the American Association of Engineers or whether the Canadian bill should be along different lines.

The draft is the work of the American Association's committee on legislation, the chairman of which is L. K. Sherman, director of the Housing and Transportation Bureau, United States Department of Labor.

In commenting upon the draft bill, C. A. Drayer, secretary of the American Association of Engineers, says:—

"The bill to a great extent is a combination of bills that have gone before. It has been done with painstaking and careful thought. Some fourteen existing and proposed license laws have been examined. The bill is drafted, embodying the essential features recognized in all of the existing laws. It complies with the fundamentals formulated in the proposed standard law of the Joint Committee of six national societies. It might be said that the act proposed by the Joint Committee was formulated at a time when opinion was against license laws (February 4th, 1915). Consequently, that bill is too innocuous in many respects to be effective. One important feature to be considered is the reciprocity arrangement for interstate use of licenses."

Following is the text of the standard bill proposed by the American Association of Engineers:—

Text of the Bill

A bill, to be entitled: "*An Act Providing for the Creation and Establishment of a State Board of Engineering Examiners, Granting Certain Powers to and Prescribing the Duties of Said Board; Providing for the Examination and Registration of Land Surveyors and Professional Engineers, Regulating the Practice of Engineering in the State of _____ and Providing Penalties for the Violation of This Act.*"

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of _____:

Section 1. After one year from the date of passage of this act, unless otherwise permitted by the provisions of this Act, no person shall practice professional engineering or land surveying in the State of _____, except he be a registered professional engineer or a registered land surveyor, as provided by this act.

Section 2. *Payment of Expenses.* Under no circumstances shall the total amount of warrants issued by the state auditor in payment of the expenses and compensations provided in this act exceed the amount of the examination and registration fees collected as herein provided.

Section 3. *Definitions.* As used in this act:

(a) The "Board" means the state board of engineering examiners provided for by this act.

(b) "Surveyor." Any person who shall be engaged in locating, establishing or relocating any land boundary line between two or more landowners, or who shall be engaged in locating any United States government, state, county, township, or municipal land survey lines, or the lines of any public streets or roads, is hereby declared to be a surveyor and as practicing land surveying within the provisions of this act.

(c) "Professional Engineering." Any person who shall be engaged in the designing or supervising of the construction, enlargement or alteration of any engineering structure, or utilities, as hereinafter defined, or any part thereof for others and to be constructed by persons other than himself, shall be regarded as practicing professional engineering within the meaning of this act.

The practice of professional engineering within the meaning of this act embraces the design and the supervision of the construction of public and private utilities, such as railroads, bridges, highways, roads, canals, harbors, river improvements, lighthouses, wet docks, dry docks, ships, barges, dredges, cranes, floating docks and other floating property, the design and the supervision of the construction of steam engines, turbines, internal combustion engines and other mechanical structures, electrical machinery and apparatus, and of works for the development, transmission or application of power, the design and the supervision of mining operations and of processes and apparatus for carrying out such operations, and the design and the supervision of the construction of municipal works, irrigation works, water supply works, sewerage works, drainage works, industrial works, sanitary works, hydraulic works and structural works and other public or private utilities or works which require for their design or supervision of their construction such experience and technical knowledge as are required in section 8 of this act. The execution as a contractor of work designed by a professional engineer or the supervision of the construction of such work as a foreman or superintendent for such a contractor shall not be deemed to be the practice of professional engineering within the meaning of this act.

(d) "Professional Engineer" means any person who practices professional engineering.

State Board of Engineering Examiners

Section 4. There is hereby created a state board of engineering examiners consisting of five members to be appointed by the Governor within sixty (60) days after the passage of this act. Three members of the board shall be civil engineers, one a mining or electrical engineer, and the other one a mechanical engineer or naval architect. One of said members of the board shall be a professor of engineering at the state university of _____ (or the state engineer in such states as the office exists). Of the members of the board first appointed hereunder two shall hold office for a term of two years, two shall hold office for a term of three years, and one shall hold office for a term of four years, each term of office ending the first day of July. Upon the expiration of each of such terms the term of office of each member thereafter appointed shall be four years. Each member shall hold over the expiration of his term until his successor shall be duly appointed and qualified. The Governor may remove any member of the board for misconduct, incapacity or neglect of duty. Vacancies in the board caused by death, resignation or removal from office shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the unexpired term. Each member of the board shall be a professional engineer of at least ten years' active experience and of recognized good standing in his profession and shall be at least thirty-five years of age and shall have been a resident of this