

**Testimony to the Alaska Legislature  
Senate Finance Committee  
Regarding CS For Sponsor Substitute for SB54, Version C  
March 27, 2025  
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Co-Chair Hoffman, members of the Senate Finance Committee:

For the record, my name is Colin Maynard, I am a retired Civil and Structural Engineer and am a member of the Alaska State Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (or AELS). I am testifying at the direction of the Board as the Chair of the AELS Legislative Liaison Committee.

At our February 2025 meeting, the AELS Board voted 7-2 to support this bill. I would like to address a few provisions which have financial impacts. First, I have to say that the Board is proud to see that the Legislative Audit found that the Board has been complying with the relevant statutes and regulations and is performing its duty to protect public safety, health, and welfare. We believe that an extension of eight years is warranted. Now to the financial issues:

- Section 2 – Board makeup
  - Adding petroleum and chemical engineering disciplines to the mining engineering seat as an option, instead of a fallback position, expands the pool of possible volunteers from 36 to 148 while keeping the seat in the resource extraction industry. This does not add any cost.
  - Breaking the current mechanical/electrical engineering seat into two seats recognizes that they are the two most common disciplines after civil engineering, even more than architects or land surveyors, which have two seats each. It also recognizes that these disciplines are different from each other and expecting one person to have expertise in both is asking a bit much.
  - Adding an Interior designer seat will allow someone with expertise in that field to help craft regulations regarding that new discipline.
  - We understand that we are already one of the largest State licensing Boards, but we currently regulate eighteen different disciplines with more registrants than all but two Boards. Most of our meetings are done virtually and the cost of travel is minimal. The cost of the Board is borne by those registrants, not by the public.
- Section 4 – Executive Administrator salary
  - The Board has been having problems retaining our Executive Administrator. The Board has been working with the Division and Department to get an Office of Management and Budget class evaluation for years. The fact that the position is a class of one has not made that very easy and it has dragged out for years. The evaluation finally started last fall, still has at least one more step to go, and may not have a conclusion with which the Board agrees. Before the evaluation started, the Board decided to request that our statute specify that the AELS Executive Administrator has a salary in Range 23. Other Boards that have a similar number of registrants have a similar provision.

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Most of the costs in the fiscal note are based on the addition of a licensing examiner, thereby expanding the Board's staff from three to four: an executive administrator, two licensing examiners, and an investigator. This is necessary due to the existing workload. The addition of interior designers will add about 1% to the number of registrants. The costs will be borne by the approximately 6700 active registrants and 800 Corporations and Limited Liability Companies.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and I am willing to try to address any questions you might have.