



Representative Sam Kito

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement

House Bill 48

Architects, Engineers, Surveyors: Extend Board

House Bill 48 extends the termination date of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) and changes the status of the current landscape architect board member from a nonvoting to a voting member.

The AELS Board was established to protect public safety by ensuring that only qualified members of the profession are permitted to practice in the state. The Board's primary functions are to screen applicants for licensure and to discipline members as needed. The Board also sets continuing education requirements for persons regulated by the Board.

The Board currently consists of ten voting members and one nonvoting member who are appointed by the governor. The AELS Board is composed of two civil engineers, two land surveyors, one mining engineer, one electrical or mechanical engineer, one engineer from another branch of the profession of engineering, two architects, one public member, and one nonvoting landscape architect. As of February 2016, the AELS Board regulates 7,386 licensed professionals.

The Division of Legislative Audit, in its 2016 report, found that the AELS Board meets the public need in an effective and economical manner. The Board ensures that persons licensed to practice in our state are qualified. The Board also provides for investigations of complaints, and has established a complaint review process that helps protect the public from unlawful and unregistered practice.

In 1998, the legislature added a nonvoting position to the AELS Board to be filled by a landscape architect in an advisory capacity. Since 1998, the nonvoting landscape architect position has actively participated in all aspects of the board's business. In 2001 (and again in 2005 and 2009), the legislature renewed this position and made the landscape architect member eligible for travel and per diem expenses. In November 2015, the Board voted to support legislation making the landscape architect a full voting member of the Board and increase the Board size to 11 members. AELS Board members supported this position during Board interviews conducted as part of the Legislative Audit review.

The Board is currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2017, and will have one year to conclude its administrative operations unless the legislature acts to extend the sunset date. House Bill 48 reflects the recommendations of the Division of Legislative Audit, and extends the termination date for the Board till June 30, 2025.

Please support House Bill 48.