



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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SB 126 Ver. A: Architect/Engineer Registration Board Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 126 is legislation requested by the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS Board). In many respects it is like a "Revisor's Bill."

One of its more substantive changes is to clarify that an electrical and a mechanical engineer may serve on the Board at the same time. This could be helpful as these two disciplines of engineering have the second and third most registrants in Alaska (civil engineering has the largest number). The Board believes this is what the Legislature intended when it called out that one of the 11 seats must be filled by a mechanical or electrical engineer and another seat is to be filled by another discipline not already represented. However, the Department of Law advises that the current language may not allow this. Clarifying this will reduce the potential for conflict over eligibility to serve and may better serve the professions.

Another change is to clarify that a registrant who seals and signs a document must do the work or be in responsible charge of it **and** the work must be in the registrant's field of practice. An attorney in the Department of Law recently opined that the way the sentence is currently written could be interpreted as "or," meaning either condition alone is sufficient. This is not how the professions have long practiced this, nor how regulations are written. So the Board requests this clarification to reduce potential conflict between statute and regulation, as well as guard the professions.

The bill provides numerous updates to the statutes, acknowledges that documents are now transmitted electronically, and adds limited partnerships to the corporate structures that can be issued certification for professional practice.