

H B

1 5 8

Table of Contents

- HB 158 "An Act relating to the licensing requirements
for architects, engineers, and land surveyors."
1. HB 158
 2. Fiscal Note - Zero - Occupational Licensing
 3. Letters in Support of HB 158
 4. Letters in Opposition to HB 158
 5. SPONSOR BACK-UP MATERIALS

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 158

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Commerce & Economic Dev.
 Title: Relating to the licensing requirements for architects, engineers and land surveyors BRU: Occupational Licensing
 Sponsor: Reps. Koponen, et al. Component: Administration
 Requestor: House HESS COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0	3	5	6
---	---	---	---

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
---------	---	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

New funds are not required to implement the provisions of HB 158.

Prepared By: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Officer Phone: 465-2144
 Division: Occupational Licensing Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: Glenn A. Olds *[Signature]* ABST. Comm.
 Agency: Department of Commerce & Economic Development Date: 4-10-91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



Mechanical Engineering

539 Duckering • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0660 • (907) 474-7209

RECEIVED
MAR 13 P.M.

March 8, 1991

Representative Georgianna Lincoln
Co-Chairman
Health, Education & Social Serv. Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99861

Dear Representative Lincoln:

The faculty of the Schools of Engineering at University of Alaska Fairbanks urge you to support HB 158 concerning licensing requirements for engineering faculty. As now written, AS08.48 provides no public good with respect to engineering education and only serves to tremendously complicate the difficult and costly process of hiring and retaining new engineering faculty.

Of the permanent full-time engineering faculty at UAF, 37 out of 44 support this bill. In the School of Engineering, none of the 25 permanent faculty supported HB 182 which created this problem for us. We are dismayed that no one bothered to contact us about this bill before its passage. At national meetings of department heads in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the sentiment has essentially been unanimous against requiring engineering faculty to be registered.

At the 1990 regional department heads meetings for Mechanical Engineering across the U.S., all 12 regions voted no to the idea of requiring faculty teaching engineering design courses to be registered. For 11 of the 12 regions, the vote was either unanimous or 20 to 1 against requiring registration. The department heads from regions IV - XI passed a resolution 16 to 0 with 4 abstentions that the National Society for Professional Engineering (NSPE) stop asking the M.E. Department Heads to take action on professional registration.

As we have to compete for qualified faculty in a national market, we do not want to further compound our difficult recruiting task with an additional impediment. We also have our own rigorous internal evaluation procedure plus an external periodic review by the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) evaluation team. This helps assure the competency of our faculty so that we graduate qualified engineers. As an example of our success, the pass rate of our students taking the Engineer in Training (EIT) exam is around 90%. The national average pass rate is 71%.

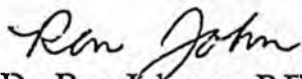
A professional working for an engineering firm is not required by State law to become registered as a condition of employment. In fact, some of our largest

Page Two
Representative Lincoln
March 8, 1991

employers have only a small minority of their engineers registered as professional engineers. Many engineering faculty perform research and develop new courses or portions of courses in specialized fields. There may not be an expert available to supervise such work. This is all part of being at the forefront of knowledge and advancing the state of the art. It is unreasonable to expect such faculty to work under the "direct" supervision of another faculty member, who has a P.E., in developing an advanced engineering course. This is the only way such faculty could legally be allowed to teach upper level engineering courses under the current law. Requiring this supervision to allow an unregistered internationally recognized authority to teach at our university would be an insult to such a person.

Three of us discussed these issues with the Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors at their November 29 meeting in Anchorage. At the close of that meeting, the Board voted unanimously not to oppose our amending this legislation in a way as to not require engineering faculty to be registered. Since then, they appear to have changed their minds. We now ask for your help in rectifying this unacceptable situation.

Yours truly,



Dr. Ron Johnson, P.E.
Department Head
Mechanical Engineering
School of Engineering

RJ/wr

POM'S IN SUPPORT OF HB 158 RECEIVED FROM:

Mr. Andy Afrouz
University of Alaska
Mining and Geological Engineering Department
910 Yukon Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

Mr. Robert Speck
3030 Forrest Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Mr. John Usibelli
Post Office Box 82261
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Mr. Sukumar Bamdopahdyay
4018 Dunlap Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Mr. M. Sengupta
421 Cindy Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



Mechanical Engineering

539 Duckoring • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0660 • (907) 474-7209

March 8, 1991

Honorable Niilo Koponen
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

We are dismayed to see the Feb. 22, 1991 letter to you from Rob Boswell, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. This proposed fix doesn't help us at all. The central issue is not whether the time limit should be eighteen months or five years. In the current statutes, Sec. 08.48.331 (4), we already have the exemption for work being done under the direct supervision of someone registered under this chapter. Needing to use this rule to allow an internationally recognized authority, who is not registered, to teach at our university would be an insult to such a person. As we have conveyed to you earlier, most engineering faculty at the top schools in our country are not registered. Why must we keep creating roadblocks to our attempt to retain and attract good faculty.

Hence, we continue to support the proposed modification (HB158) you sent us at the beginning of February, 1991. I am enclosing a copy of an earlier letter to you providing additional details. Our faculty wants to prevent unnecessary intrusion by a State bureaucracy into our attempts to maintain a quality university.

Yours truly,

Dr. Ron Johnson, PE
Dept. Head, Mech Engr.
School of Engineering
Univ. of Alaska
Fairbanks, AK
99775-0660

RJ/wr

From:
Students and
Professors
at UAF

Representative Pat Carney
P.O. BOX V
Juneau, AK 99861

3.22.91

Dear Representative Carney:

We support the position of the State Board of Engineering on
license requirements of University Professors of Engineering.

As such we oppose H.B 158.

Clayton Pentek - 455-6763
Janelle Hines 455-0824
N. Sengupta P.E 452-4270

Martin Miranda UAF resident student
455-6111
Henry Wickham 1965 Weston Dr.
479-5570
CPA

Kathy Hodge 452-7818
Mark Pester 474-3713 UAF resident student

Quinn ~~Estad~~ 474-3713

Kristine Pomeroy 457-5405

Will Lyell 479-6091

Ronald White 350-1677

Dina Isham 479-2019

Jennifer Goldsmith 452-7752

Arlene Lewis 474-7121

Yours Sincerely

Nihar Sengupta 452-4270

Juny E. Kim 456-1463

Lynne Seiger 474-9417

Howard J. Lyden 474-5099

E. Thomas Robinson, CPA
474-6526

Erin E. Boss 488-0145

Jambi Miles 350-3604



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

School of Engineering
539 Duckering Bldg. • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0660

27 March, 1991

Representative Niilo Koponen
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

I am writing to express my **STRONG** support for HB 158 that would repeal the requirement the university professors be licensed Professional Engineers (P.E.) to teach upper division courses. Such a requirement would have long lasting detrimental effects on the University, while serving no functional purpose.

A Professional Engineer's stamp (please see bottom of page two) is the State's assurance that a design, which will be constructed and subject the public to the design, has been checked by a qualified individual. However, one does not have to be licensed to be qualified. When an Engineer uses a Professional Engineer (P.E.) Stamp, he/she is certifying that the design and the drawings for the design have been reviewed. Using a P.E. stamp means that the engineer assumes personal and professional liability - **it does not indicate that the licensed Professional Engineer is any more qualified than an Engineer who is not registered - it only serves as an assumption of liability and the State's approval to assume that liability.**

At the University of Alaska, a candidate's credentials are reviewed extensively before an individual is hired. This review includes examination of the applicant's education, teaching and professional experience. Only well qualified, experienced engineers are hired to teach engineering courses. This system is used in every other state at every major University. As a result of our rigorous review and high standards for employment as a tenure-track faculty member, the University of Alaska Fairbanks has a highly qualified, professional faculty in the School of Engineering.

What then, is the impetus for mandating professional registration ? The national board responsible for accrediting engineering schools in this country (ABET) does not even require licensing for engineering professors. The concept of mandating registration is supported and promoted by only a few individuals within the faculty. They somehow feel that registration would advance the professional nature of the school. This is not the case. Experienced engineers and well qualified professors advance the quality and prestige of our school, not state registration. We have many highly experienced engineers, who have practiced in the consulting world, who are not licensed Professional Engineers. In business and industry, only one PE is required for a project that employs hundreds of engineers. That one PE accepts the responsibility for overall review and personal and professional liability for the **design when constructed.**

The activities of the engineering faculty at UAF does not include design of structures for construction. While we teach design principles that will ultimately be employed in construction, the design engineer who stamps the drawing for construction needs to be licensed by the state - not the professor who taught the course.. **Remember, registration says nothing about an individuals actual qualifications, it only indicates that the State has recognized this individual's right to accept liability and sanctions her/his review.**

It is also important to note that the requirement for registration will not affect me - I am already registered in both Alaska and California. I am registered because I practice engineering outside the University as a private consultant, and I did so in California before I moved to Alaska. My support for HB 158 is based in a deep respect for my college; and a recognition of the importance of Professional Registration for Engineers doing design in the field. However, my registration does nothing to enhance my ability to teach. It is my professional experience I draw upon when teaching advanced courses - not the State's approval for me to review designs as embodied in my Professional Engineer's licence.

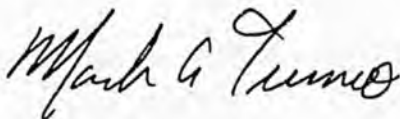
The only effect mandating registration for engineering Professors will have is to destroy the University's ability teach engineering. It is a meaningless requirement that has already resulted in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development threatening the University with a cease and desist order to stop us from teaching upper division engineering classes.

If House Bill 158 is not passed this session, the Legislature can expect that next year the University of Alaska Fairbanks will not be able to fulfill its duty to educate the next generation of engineers for this State - not because we are not qualified or able to do so - but because a vocal minority has succeeded in imposing a meaningless and unnecessary bureaucratic requirement on the faculty.

The long-term effects of failing to pass HB 158 are even more devastating: Why should highly qualified engineers who are not registered, as many are because registration is not required to practice engineering, only to officially review and stamp drawings, come to Alaska to teach if the state is going to impose a draconian and unnecessary registration requirement? The University of Alaska is at a cross-road. We have the opportunity to continue to move forward, advance the economic base of the state, and increase the national and international prestige of this institution through continued research, professional teaching, and a highly qualified faculty and staff. However, if HB 158 is not passed, we will be thrown back to a time when the School of Engineering could not attract and retain qualified engineering professors and could not offer the necessary slate of upper-division engineering courses. Alaska will lose some of its most talented and promising individuals to schools outside the state simply because a few individuals wanted Professors to be registered.

Please avoid this scenario and pass HB 158 with all due haste.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Tumeo, P.E., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

School of Engineering
539 Duckering Bldg. • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0660

March 26, 1991

Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Rep. Koponen

I am writing to you to express my support for HB 158. I am currently employed as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Prior to my employment at UAF I was a graduate student at Colorado State University (CSU) where I received both my Master's and Ph.D in Civil Engineering. Prior to my attendance at CSU I was employed for three years as a DESIGN STRUCTURAL ENGINEER at Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation - a large consultant to the Utility Industry.

During my tenure at Stone and Webster, I did not find it necessary to obtain my Professional Engineering License as I was not required to stamp design drawings. Only a single structural engineer per job was required to stamp design drawings. In many cases, this individual was in a strictly administrative role on the job and did not participate in actual design efforts. I think you will find that this situation is common among the larger consultants throughout the country and locally throughout the State of Alaska.

This does not mean that I do not support licensing of Professional Engineers - I strongly urge my students to become licensed and intend to obtain my P.E. License in the near future. It is only that I feel that it is inappropriate for legislation requiring my licensing to stand while I am not actively engaged in the preparation of stamped, design drawings. I fully believe that my teaching duties constitute the practice of engineering just as my design work at Stone and Webster was the practice of engineering. A license was not required then because I did not stamp design drawings. I do not accept the contention that a P.E. License is a requirement now to perform my duties at UAF since I am not involved in the preparation of stamped, design drawings.

There are a number of negative "trickle down" effects associated with the currently enacted legislation that will have a severely unfavorable impact on the University of Alaska system. These are too numerous to recount here and I am sure that you are already aware of many of them. I would merely like to ask "Why does Alaska need the legislation requiring registration of Faculty? Are the Faculty of MIT, PURDUE and GEORGIA TECH, who are not required to be licensed, somehow inferior to Faculty at Alaskan Institutions?"

Thank you for your support of HB 158 and your continuing efforts on behalf of the University of Alaska in other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Curtis".

Kevin C. Curtis, Ph.D
Assistant Professor
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Alaska Fairbanks

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



Mechanical Engineering

539 Duckering • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775 • (907) 474-7209

October 22, 1990

Pat Kalen
Board of Registration for Architects,
Engineers and Land Surveyors
State of Alaska

Dear Pat:

I am sending you this letter to convey to the Board the sentiments of the engineering faculty at UAF regarding HB 182. As you know, I met with the board on Sept. 13, 1990 and then some engineering faculty and you met with Rep. Koponen and selected staff members on Sept. 20. At the close of that meeting, I agreed to query our faculty as to how they felt concerning redefining the practice of engineering as to not include teaching. The results were mixed with a small majority of those voting believing that teaching engineering courses was as much the practice of engineering as many other engineering activities.

As an example, when one runs a computer code to provide data leading to an engineering design, one could just as well run this code as part of teaching a class as well as to complete an engineering project. If one performed this function while working for an engineering firm, he or she would receive credit toward the time required to obtain registration providing he or she was working under the supervision of a P.E. The same should be true for a faculty member. However, we must recognize that many engineering faculty perform research and develop new courses or portions of courses in very specialized fields. There may not be an expert available to supervise such work. This is all part of being at the forefront of knowledge and advancing the state of the art. The professional working for the engineering firm is not required by State law to become a P.E. as a condition of employment. In fact, some of our largest employers have a majority of their engineers not registered as professional engineers.

Hence, our faculty overwhelmingly support amending the current law established under HB 182 as outlined on the attachment. This attachment was part of a letter I distributed to the Board at the Sept. 13, 1990 meeting.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Mechanical Engineering

Page Two
Pat Kalen
October 22, 1990

Of our permanent full-time faculty at UAF, 37 out of 44 support this amendment. In the School of Engineering, none of the 25 permanent faculty supported HB 182. At national meetings of department heads in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the sentiment has essentially been unanimous against requiring engineering faculty to be registered. We hope you can work with us to amend the law as outlined. We are ready to meet with our legislators and the Governor during the next session to accomplish this.

As we understand, you will discuss this item at your November meeting. Please let us know what transpires.

Yours truly,

Ron

Dr. Ron Johnson
Dept. Head
Mechanical Engineering
UAF
10/22/90

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS



Mechanical Engineering

539 Duckering • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0660 • (907) 474-7209

November 30, 1990

Representative Niilo Koponen
119 North Cushman Street
Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Representative Koponen:

The faculty of the Schools of Engineering at University of Alaska Fairbanks ask for your help during this coming legislative session in revising AS08.48 concerning Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors as prescribed on the attached page. As now written, it provides no public good with respect to engineering education and only serves to tremendously complicate the difficult and costly process of hiring and retaining new engineering faculty. For additional background, we are enclosing a copy of a letter we sent to you last April.

Of the permanent full-time engineering faculty at UAF, 37 out of 44 support this amendment. In the School of Engineering, none of the 25 permanent faculty supported HB 182 which created this problem for us. We are dismayed that no one bothered to contact us about this bill before its passage. At national meetings of department heads in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, the sentiment has essentially been unanimous against requiring engineering faculty to be registered.

At the 1990 regional department heads meetings for Mechanical Engineering across the U.S., all 12 regions voted no to the idea of requiring faculty teaching engineering design courses to be registered. For 11 of the 12 regions, the vote was either unanimous or 20 to 1 against requiring the P.E. The department heads from regions IV - XI passed a resolution 16 to 0 with 4 abstentions that the National Society for Professional Engineering (NSPE) stop asking the M.E. Department Heads to take action on professional registration.

As we have to compete for qualified faculty in a national market, we do not want to further compound our difficult recruiting task with an additional impediment. We also have our own rigorous internal evaluation procedure plus an external periodic review by the National Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) evaluation team. This helps assure the competency of our faculty so that we graduate qualified engineers. As an example of our success, the pass rate of our students taking the Engineer in Training (EIT) exam is around 90%. The national average pass rate is 71%.

A professional working for an engineering firm is not required by State law to become registered as a condition of employment. In fact, some of our largest

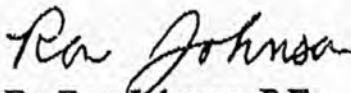
Mechanical Engineering

Page Two
Representative Niilo Koponen
November 30, 1990

employers have only a small minority of their engineers registered as professional engineers. Many engineering faculty perform research and develop new courses or portions of courses in specialized fields. There may not be an expert available to supervise such work. This is all part of being at the forefront of knowledge and advancing the state of the art. It is unreasonable to expect such faculty to work under the "direct" supervision of another faculty member, who has a P.E., in developing an advanced engineering course. This is the only way such faculty could legally be allowed to teach upper level engineering courses under the current law.

Three of us discussed these issues with the Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors at their November 29 meeting in Anchorage. At the close of that meeting, the Board voted unanimously not to oppose our offering this attached amendment. We now ask for your help in rectifying this unacceptable situation.

Yours truly,



Dr. Ron Johnson, P.E.
Department Head
Mechanical Engineering
School of Engineering

RJ/wr
Attachment



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Department of Mining and Geological Engineering

School of Mineral Engineering

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-1190 • (907) 474-7388 • FAX (907) 474-6635

March 20, 1991

The Honorable Pat Carney
House of Representatives
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: House Bill 158, Professional Registration of Engineering Professors

Dear Representative Carney:

House Bill 158 should be rejected and the position of the State Board of Engineering should be retained for the following reasons:

1. In 1990, the Board of Engineering carefully considered all factors when they introduced the legislation. They consulted deans, professors, and the public.
2. Their regulation has been in existence for the last twenty years and all elderly professors are licensed. We have been working hard to make UAF a nationally reputed university. In this process we expect all engineering professors to be registered as Professional Engineers. The registration decision is accepted at the national level by the National Council of Engineering Examiners.
3. Dr. Ron Johnson polled the UAF professors on this issue. Twelve professors voted in favor of the license requirement and eighteen professors voted that they strongly recommended the license requirement. Why is Dr. Johnson changing his position?
4. Some Professors of Engineering (listed below) hold B.S. degrees from Third World countries.
 - Mr. S. Bandopadhyay, Mining Engineering, Bangladesh
 - Mr. D. Ogbe, Petroleum Engineering, Nigeria
 - Mr. V. Kamath, Petroleum Engineering, India
 - Mr. G.D. Sharma, Petroleum Engineering, India
 - Mr. Scott Huang, Geological Engineering, Taiwan
 - Dr. P. B. Rao, India
 - Mr. Steve Lin, TaiwanThese professors find it difficult to pass the licensing examination, but we cannot convert UAF into a Third World institution.
5. UAF students regularly pass the engineering licensing examination. If the students of these professors can pass the examination, the professors should be able to pass the same examination.

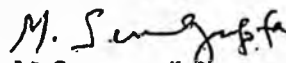
March 20, 1991
Page 2

6. The Accreditation Board for Engineering has rejected the Petroleum Engineering program at UAF for the last ten years. The Petroleum faculty consists, primarily, of individuals from Third World countries with little experience. To give these persons exemptions from registration will further lower the present low standard. Some professors, e.g., Dr. G. D. Sharma, do not have any education in engineering.
7. Some conditional exemptions could be given to qualified professors:

Professors holding B.S. degrees in Engineering from accredited institutions in the United States and a Ph.D. degree in Engineering from similarly accredited engineering program could be given partial exemption from registration requirements.

This should be negotiated with the Board of Engineering. Legislature should not interfere.
8. At UAF, in other programs, like Accounting, all professors are licensed as CPAs. They do not seek exemption.
9. The UAF Board of Regents requires licensed professors.
10. University of Alaska Anchorage professors are not asking for exemption.
11. With the high expenditures of the university and the high salaries for UAF engineering professors (at national average), we cannot afford to lower academic standards of engineering education. The engineering professors have been claiming higher salaries than their colleagues at UAF. The research reputation in engineering at UAF is low at the national level. If we also lower the standard of teaching by permitting unlicensed teachers, where will we stand at the national level?
12. Licensing examination is a competency test. If professors cannot pass the test, are they willing to take \$10,000.00 less in salary than that of a licensed professor?

Yours sincerely,



M. Sengupta, P.E.
Professor of Mining Engineering

cc: Honorable Governor Walter Hickel
State Board of Engineering

ATTACHMENT

To October 22, 1990 Letter to Pat Kalen

We urge the legislature to revise the recently enacted amendments to AS08.48 concerning Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors. HB 182 was signed into law by the governor on February 2, 1990. We are opposed to the latest law because exemption(4), Sec. 08.48.331 of the former law has been omitted. This exemption read: "This chapter does not apply to... (4) an officer or employee of the state practicing architecture, engineering or land surveying as required by that person's official capacity if registration is not required by that person's job description or by AS 38.95.150 or 38.95.160." This exemption is important to the faculty of the Schools of Engineering in Alaska and we ask that it be reinstated with the following changes: insert "faculty" before job description, and delete < or by AS 38.95.150 or 38.95.160>.

Moreover, the new law specifically requires (Sec 4., 08.48.255) that those teaching engineering at post secondary institutions become registered within 18 months. We ask that this section be repealed.

Ron Johnson
UAF
10/22/90

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

P.O. BOX D
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0800
PHONE: (907) 465-2534

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

February 22, 1991

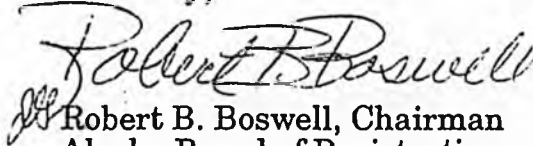
Honorable Niilo Koponen
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Koponen:

Re: Resolution Concerning Registration
of University Teachers

The enclosed resolution was passed by the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors at our February 21-22, 1991 meeting.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Boswell, Chairman
Alaska Board of Registration
for Architects, Engineers and
Land Surveyors

RBB/JG/jc4225q
022291a
Enclosure

cc: Representative Mark Boyer
Representative Kay Brown
Representative Pat Carney
Representative Dave Choquette
Representative Johnny Ellis
Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp
Senator Steve Frank
Representative Loren Lemman
Representative Mike Miller
Representative Tom Moyer
Representative Mike Navarre
Representative Bert Sharp
James Nelson, NSPE
Wendy Redman, University of Alaska
Ron Johnson, University of Alaska

Alaska State Legislature
Representative Niilo Koponen

Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4992

House District 21

119 N. Cushman, Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-8172

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 158

"An Act relating to the licensing requirements for
architects, engineers, and land surveyors"

Presently, Alaska Statutes require licensing of professional engineers, including faculty at the University of Alaska. This restriction prohibits the University from recruiting and hiring qualified but non-registered faculty from other U.S. engineering schools. Under present law, new Ph.Ds may not be eligible for Alaskan registration for 3 or more years, rendering a valuable talent pool unavailable to Alaskan university students. Non-registered faculty must become registered within 18 months of their date of hire.

Unless present law is amended, the Department of Commerce and Economic development could issue cease and desist orders to non-registered faculty as early as January, 1992. This action could effectively close down the University's engineering program, including mining engineering. Non-registered but tenured faculty would retain their jobs, but could not teach upper-level classes, requiring the hiring of additional faculty at a time when funds for new hires are scarce to non-existent.

This bill would exempt from registration faculty employed by postsecondary educational institutions to teach engineering courses for the period of their employment. This approach is taken by most other U.S. engineering schools, including MIT, Purdue and Georgia Tech. This bill does not authorize faculty to perform engineering services other than teaching and performing normal academic duties, including research.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House HESS
committee name

committee on HB 158, dated April 11, 1991
bill/subject

I am writing in regard to HB 158, which would again exempt University professors from the requirement for professional registration to teach upper division engineering courses. I have been a professional engineer in Alaska for almost ten years and was originally registered in Colorado in 1971. I have been a civil engineering professor at UAA since 1981 and have served as the Head of Civil Engineering and as Interim Dean of the School of Engineering.

Professional registration is perceived to be important in the academic world of engineering. The accrediting group (ABET) for programs in engineering notes with approval the number of faculty members who are professional engineers. The University catalogs - at UAA and UAF - list "P.E." after appropriate faculty members. Correspondence from faculty members often uses the "P.E." designation.

All the appropriate faculty members at UAA have become or are in the process of becoming registered. This has required an additional expenditure of resources, but as an administrator I believe this has been worthwhile. The exposure to Arctic engineering and the wider range of engineering subjects required to pass the registration exam can provide diversity to narrow engineering courses. The Code of Ethics which is part of the registration statute is appropriate to teaching engineering.

Finally, since the Alaska Statutes (AS 08.48.341(8)) define "Practice of Engineering" as "teaching of advanced engineering courses..." It should be clear that such teachers be registered or be working toward registration. It is difficult for a faculty member to encourage students to pursue engineering registration if the faculty does not take part in the process.

It may be advisable to lengthen the allowable time for faculty to obtain*
Signed: _____

Testifier Robert E. Miller, Ph.D., P.E.

Representing (Optional)

7729 Anne Circle
Address Anchorage, AK 99504 H) 337-7027 W) 786-1869

*professional registration, but the examination should not be an undue burden for
a qualified faculty member.
Phone No.

ALASKA BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND
LAND SURVEYORS

RESOLUTION

The board wishes to clarify the intent of their action at the November 29, 1990 meeting as it relates to registration of University staff. The board's motion "not to oppose the University's proposed movement to drop the requirement for staff to be registered" was not intended to support a revision to AS 08.48.255 to exclude teaching in higher education from the requirements of registration, but was simply a recognition by the board of the problems created for the University by the new requirements in AS 08.48.255. The board moved at its February 21, 1991 meeting to modify its policy as follows:

Policies and Historical Information

Work Experience

9(c) TEACHERS. Teaching upper division engineering courses would be accepted as responsible charge if work is verified by a registered Alaskan engineer who is also employed by the same school, regardless of discipline. This interpretation of responsible charge will again be reviewed by the board at their last quarterly meeting of 1994.

The board feels this modification of policy should adequately address the concerns of the University as well as provide the safeguards for registration as desired in AS 08.48 (171 - 265).

Further, the board feels that AS 08.48.255(a), which requires all engineering professors to be registered within 18 months of employment, is unrealistic and that establishment of the time period for registration of said professors should be set at five years.

F. USE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)
Date Referred: February 25, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS: Labor and Commerce

Date of Committee Action: 4-10-91

The HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES Committee considered: HB 158

HOUSE BILL NO. 158 EXEMPT ARCH/ENGR/SURVY/OCCUPAT'L LICENSES

"An Act relating to the licensing requirements for architects, engineers, and land surveyors."

- RECOMMENDATIONS: the same title
 be replaced with _____ a new title
- have attached amendments(s)
 do pass
 do not pass
 no recommendations
 individual recommendations
 additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

- ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)
- fiscal impact _____ fiscal note(s) _____
 zero fiscal note CEDC zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
		Cheri Davis		✓	
Mary Miller	✓	Mark Handley		X	
Denise...	✓	J. G. ...		X	
...	✓				

Cathy ...
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE