

**2011-2012 Legislative Committee Report**  
**Ronald J. Rodi, P.E., Chairman**  
**June 11, 2012**

The 2011-2012 legislative activities carried on through most of the past 12 months and culminated in a highly active session. Several bills (far more than usual) were filed that affected professional registration, and of which we became vigorously engaged. The two top bills on our agenda involved the exemption of naval architects and petroleum engineers from the jurisdiction of LAPELS. Other bills tracked this session included continuing attempts to extend the authorization of Design-Build procurement, licensure for military personnel, and professional liability.

Each year the Legislature as a whole portrays a certain “personality”. This session was particularly disturbing in the fact that our elected officials showed little respect for professional organizations in general. This may be due to a “tea party” mentality of less government/regulation. But I believe LES needs to truly focus next year in re-gaining the respect of legislative leaders. Our organization has been the leader in promoting fairness, professionalism and a pragmatic approach to laws affecting all engineers while being steadfast to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. We have to communicate this to each elected official to ensure they see LES as an advocate and not a self-promoting trade group.

Following is a summary of the bills that were tracked and the final disposition:

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Description</u>
SB 126	Signed by Governor	Extends Design Build in hurricane impacted areas by one year.
SB 192	Did not pass.	Authorizes occupational licensing boards to approve out-of-state licenses for military personnel and spouses of military personnel while stationed in Louisiana
SB 258	Sent to Governor.	Revised Peremptive Law to limit the defending party to 90 days to file claims against another party
SB 318	Signed by Governor	Provides “grand-fathered” exemption for Naval Architects and Marine Engineers to gain licensure without examination.
SB 409	Did not pass.	Specifically names New Orleans SW&B to the list of agencies that can use DB and extends the present authorization to 2015
SB 464	Did not pass.	Prohibits award of government contracts to person convicted of certain felony crimes
SB 715	Combined with HB 652	Authorizes ports to use DB for engineering projects
HB 295	Signed by Governor	Prohibits the disqualifications or ineligibility to practice a licensed profession solely due to prior criminal record unless the conviction relates to the licensure sought
HB 306	Did not pass.	Changes the word "and" to "or" in three of the conditions which determine whether PE's from other jurisdictions qualify for Louisiana engineering licensure
HB 322	Combined with HB 732	Authorizes occupational licensing boards to approve out-of-state licenses for spouses of military personnel while stationed in Louisiana

HB 327	Did not pass.	Provides for a 10% reduction of all state professional, personal and consulting contracts
HB 329	Did not pass.	Requires recipients of public contracts to provided names and amounts of persons paid on an hourly basis
HB 593	Combined with SB 318	Exempts Naval Architects and Marine Engineers from LAPELS
HB 619	Did not pass.	Provides for preference for services by Louisiana domiciled firms in public bid process
HB 652	Sent to Governor.	Authorizes port commissions to utilized DB for engineering projects through 2015
HB 732	Signed by Governor	Authorizes occupational licensing boards to approve out-of-state licenses for military personnel and spouses of military personnel while stationed in Louisiana
HB 748	Signed by Governor	Allows quantifications of oil and gas reserves, determination of production forecasts and the economic impact of production by professional engineers from other jurisdictions providing the other jurisdiction of the registrant has a reciprocal agreement.
HB 1034	Did not pass.	Excludes persons whose public service is limited to certain professional services from the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics
HB 1166	Did not pass.	Provides relative to the state uniform construction code to establish advisory committee with LES member on the committee

The LES Board of Direction, legislative committee and our general membership expended a great deal of energy in debating SB 318 and HB 748 both concerning exemptions to the registration law. It's the first time in my tenure as legislative committee that licensure bills were so heavily lobbied by the bills' proponents prior to the legislative session. We were successful in amending SB 318 for both sides to emerge as a winner. However, our efforts on HB 748 were unable to overcome the bill's allies in the oil & gas industry. Two of the bills, SB 258 and HB 652 passed both houses and are pending a decision by the Governor to approve, veto or pass into law without signature.

Nonetheless, our voice was heard, and it's essential that our member know they can influence the outcome and be actively engaged in the process while not being at the Capitol.

Gerald Simmons continues in his role as our legislative advisor, and was, as always, instrumental in tracking the various bills, providing valuable advice on legislative strategy and setting up meetings with legislative leaders. Also, LES continues to work closely with the Louisiana ACEC and others in the design profession on related issues. The State office also continued to provide the important link in communications with the Board of Directions and the general membership as well as assisting in compilation of materials and related information.