



June 11, 2021

Dear SEAOA Members,

This letter is to inform you of two Senate Bills that have effects on our profession, their current status and the current actions that SEAOA is taking in response to these Bills.

Background and current status:

Arizona State Senate has recently worked on two bills, one in the process of becoming law and the other under review of the State Senate. We encourage you to read the full text of each bill online (<https://www.azleg.gov/bills/>)

SB1062: Engineering Definitions. This bill modifies the definition of Engineering and brings potential ambiguity to our society.

The Governor signed the bill on March 18, 2021. It will become effective 90 days after session ends this year, probably around the end of July or the early part of August.

SB1304: Striker.

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Ugenti-Rita, proposes to move the licensing of engineers from the Arizona Board of technical Registration (AZBTR) to Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA); eliminate the EIT designation, (making AZ the only state in the country that would not provide this designation) and eliminate the representation of surveyors, geologists, and landscape architects from the board. It also proposes changing the composition of the board to seven (7) public members and one (1) architect member. Furthermore, it proposes to give the board's enforcement/disciplinary authority to a private association.

This bill has not moved in the Senate since it passed through the Commerce Committee on February 17, 2021. However, it could be revived.

SEAOA has formed a Legislative Committee with 6 members that have reached out to the AZBTR, NCSEA as well as other engineering associations to understand the genesis of these bills, be informed on current actions and preparing strategies on how we can collaborate to defend our profession and keep our society well informed.

Regarding SB1062, we see the need to reach out to our society and communicate clearly and efficiently the advantages provided by Professional Engineering and the differences between Engineer and Professional Engineering. This bill alters the definition of "Engineer" by removing the requirement that a person must be qualified and registered to practice engineering. The term "Professional Engineer" is created to refer to a person who is qualified and licensed in the practice of engineering. While the changes may appear to be subtle, the general public may be unaware of the different requirements between the two designations.

Regarding SB1304, as practicing engineers in Arizona we see that the strike-all amendments to SB1304 would deeply change the laws that are protecting the public health and safety in Arizona, by effectively eliminating the role of government in the regulation of professional engineering licensure.

SEAOA supports professional licensure of engineers with appropriate standards for education, examination, experience, continuing professional education, and professional conduct to protect and improve the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Additionally, SEAOA considers it the duty of government to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. SB1304 would take this responsibility from government and place it on a corporate organization. Concerns with this include whether these organizations are prepared to take on this responsibility along with the potential conflict of interest and anti-trust concerns this may present in the future.

To our knowledge no organization has been consulted to regulate engineering practice. Additionally, having Engineers or their professional organizations regulate their own membership is concerning to SEAOA from a conflict of interest and anti-trust perspective.

For these reasons we believe that the amendments proposed by SB1304 should be refused.

Please consider contacting your state representatives to voice your thoughts on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

SEAOA Legislative Committee