

2013-2014 Legislative Committee Report

Ronald J. Rodi, P.E., Chairman

May 28, 2014

The 2014 Regular Legislative Session is winding down...officially ending June 2th. The session again consisted mostly of budgetary and educational debates with a few bills that impacted the engineering profession. LES continues to be respected as a leader in promoting professionalism in the laws affecting all engineers and our responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

This session LES partnered with ASCE, ACEC, The Good Roads Coalition and others in an Infrastructure Awareness Day at the Legislature, an event that we will likely continue to help sponsor and nurture.

Following is a summary of the bills that were tracked and their current status:

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 158	Provides for the licensure of professional engineers currently licensed in other jurisdictions	Deferred
SB 341	Provides for limitations relative to actions or rules requiring modification of certain existing community water systems	Passed House & Senate
SB 416	Provides relative to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board; ACEC bill to add two seats	Deferred
SB 468	Provides relative to contracts for public bid law changes	Pending Final Vote in House
SB 680	Provide for CM@Risk method for public contracts.	Pending Final Vote in House
HB 137	Authorizes payroll deductions for dues for membership in the Louisiana Engineering Society	Deferred
HB 319	Revisions to business corporation law; specific references to the use of terms "engineer", "architect" or "surveyor"	Sent to Governor
HB 964	Provides for overhead power line information identified on Dept. of Transportation and Development public work projects	Deferred

Ongoing items:

1. Continue to work with ACEC and the state Ethics Board to provide an opinion on how private practice engineers are treated under the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics;
2. Re-submit our LES bill to approve a payroll deduction for state-employed engineers to pay their LES dues;
3. Work with LAPELS on licensing requirements for licensed engineers from other jurisdictions;
4. Continue working with Louisiana's DHH to draft the standards for water system design; and
5. Continue to monitor an initiative to require the inclusion of overhead power lines on plans for public works projects.

Having served my last term as Chairman of the State Legislative Committee, I am honored to have represented LES and the engineering profession overall on many interesting and sometimes challenging issues. I can't say enough about Gerald Simmons' continued contributions to our legislative efforts. His wisdom, advice and "know-how" have been essential for us in tracking bills, developing legislative strategies and setting up meetings with legislative leaders. The legislative activities are a team effort with strong leadership and decision-making by the Board of Direction; Chapter legislative committees connection to legislators in their communities; member participation to provide testimony and the Stae Office's role in with the general membership as well as assisting in compilation of materials and related information.