

2010-2011 Legislative Committee Report
Ronald J. Rodi, P.E., Chairman
July 17, 2011

This year's regular session was not as active in terms of engineering related issues. The top issue pertained to proposed changes to a law enacted through the 2010 Regular Session involving the disposition of fees and commissions. Other bills tracked this session included continuing attempts to extend the authorization of Design-Build procurement and other public contracting issues. Following is a summary of the bills that were tracked and the current status:

Instrument	Status	Summary
<u>HB132</u>	Failed Final Passage in House	FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL: Provides for the expansion of authority for the State Fire Marshal
<u>HB182</u>	Signed by Governor	PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Extends the length of time (one more year) for City of New Orleans to utilize design-build contracts for public projects damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
<u>HB362</u>	Signed by Governor	BUILDING CODES: Revised Occupancy Classifications and Minimum SF requirement which require the use of design professionals
<u>HB365</u>	Signed by Governor	PUBLIC CONTRACT/BIDS: Revises Uniform Bid Form requirements and related public bid provisions
<u>HB449</u>	Signed by Governor	PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides that discussions regarding the award of a public contract must be held in an open meeting
<u>HB543</u>	Failed Passage in Senate Committee	PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Authorization for ports to use the design-build method on certain construction projects
<u>SB242</u>	Signed by Governor	PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Repealed requirements for filing of affidavits in regarding to fee disposition, and enacts new requirement relative to contract amendments, change orders and splitting of profits, fees, and commissions in public contracts.
<u>SB250</u>	Failed Passage in Senate Committee	PUBLIC CONTRACTS: Allows agencies to reject bids from entities convicted of or found to have committed any unethical or discriminatory practice or conduct by a state or federal agency.

It's important to note that legislators mentioned the number of calls and emails they received on key issues. Our members should always remember they can influence the outcome and actively engage 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. This was particularly important in discussing our concerns on the fee disposition issue with Senator Conrad Appel. Also, LES continues to work closely with the Louisiana ACEC and others in the design profession on related issues.

Brenda, Cathy and Jason 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.