There were 5 proposed bills that came up during the session that may have a possible impact on LAPELS and Professional Registration.

Following is a description of each and the actions taken along with **final dispensation in bold underline.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 613 - BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN**

**LICENSING: Provides relative to the occupational licenses of military families**

This is a major amendment to the military bill that changes what was previously put into place and then amended on behalf of LAPELS (SB 283 by Sen. Hewitt in 2016). Ryan H. and I spoke with Rep. Owen and he is not interested in forcing Boards to issue licenses to unqualified individuals. He references the substitute clause that he offers “The applicant holds a current and valid occupational license in another state in an occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board in this state.” He says the intent of this clause is that the Board has the ability to deny a license if the licensure process in the other state is not acceptable to the Board.

If in the long run, LAPELS finds that the Board is running the risk of being forced to issue licenses that they think are based on substandard qualifications then we could attempt to reinstitute a similar amendment to the one that Sen. Hewitt put forward for us in 2016.

**This bill passed and was sent to the Governor for signature with a few amendments.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 422 - BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON**

**LICENSING: Provides relative to apprenticeships**

This is an onerous bill which has very little support. Other Boards are leading the charge on this and we are piggybacking on their efforts. They have sent Rep. Emerson two proposed amendments. The 1st calls for changing “shall”s to “may”s thereby making the bill voluntary. We are being told that she will not accept this. Therefore, we are requesting the other amendment which excludes certain boards which reads:

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the following:

1. The Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board.
2. The Louisiana Real Estate Commission.
3. The State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana.
4. Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
(5) Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board.
(6) Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology.”

This never made it out of the Senate Committee – dead for session

HOUSE BILL NO. 498 - BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON
LICENSING: Provides relative to occupational license and examination fee waiver and payment plan for qualified individuals

This bill will have very little effect on LAPELS. It may require waiving or deferring some fees based on the need of the applicant.

This bill passed and was sent to the Governor for Signature

HOUSE BILL NO. 622 - BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON
LICENSING: Provides relative to universal occupational or professional licensing recognition

This bill would create the "Universal License Reciprocity and Recognition Act. It would require licensing boards to grant licensure to applicants simply by them being licensed in another state for at least one year, as long as the other state had “minimum education requirements, work experience, apprenticeship requirements, or clinical supervision requirements”.

This too is an onerous bill which has very little support. Again, other Boards are leading the charge on and we are piggybacking on their efforts. They have sent a letter in opposition and have asked if it does not get withdrawn that the same named Boards from HB 422 be excluded.

This bill was voluntarily deferred by author – dead for session

SENATE BILL NO. 514 BY SENATORS LUNEAU AND CARTER
ENGINEERS. Provides relative to qualifications of professional engineers. (8/1/20)

This appears to be a bill that is similar to the bills introduced on behalf of Mr. Maqbool in the past. Ryan spoke to Senator Carter and he said that he only filed it in case our bill (SB 125 -Sen. Hewitt) did not make it through. He is in complete support of SB 125 and will withdraw his bill if SB125 went through.

At this time Ryan believes that this bill will not be heard this session but we will keep an eye out. We have indicated to Sen. Hewitt that we did not want to withdraw our bill (SB 125) if this bill were to move forward in place of it.
This bill was not heard this session

Finally, LES’s bill which was sponsored by Senator Hewitt”

SENATE BILL NO. 125 –
ENGINEERS. Provides relative to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board

LES has conditionally agreed to defer this bill that we asked Sen. Hewitt to file for us until next session because of the ongoing COVID-19 constraints that have seriously curtailed the legislative calendar.

This bill was not heard this session

C:\04009\LES\Legislative Liaison\200610 LES Legislative Update.docx