



DALE KOOYENGA
STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

State Capitol · P.O. Box 7882 · Madison, WI 53707-7882 · (608) 266-2512

April 16, 2019

TO: Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations
FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga
RE: support for Senate Bill 156 – emeritus status for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers and professional land surveyors

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill.

There is pride associated with being a part of any profession and, in the instance of this legislation, being an architect, landscape architect, professional engineer, designer or professional land surveyor. The goal of Senate Bill 156 is to create an emeritus status for retired architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers and professional land surveyors who still wish to identify themselves publicly as such. Under the provisions of the bill an individual is required to use the term "retired" or something similar in connection with their title.

Under this bill, any rule promulgated by the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Professional Land Surveyors establishing continuing education requirements must provide that an applicant for credential renewal who is at least 65 years of age or who has actively maintained that credential for a minimum of 30 consecutive years is exempt from continuing education requirements upon certification to the examining board that the applicant has retired from professional practice and no longer engages in that practice. An exempt person may maintain his or her professional title but may not engage in the relevant practice and an exempt person must pay only one-half of the applicable renewal fee to maintain his or her professional credential.

Lastly, I have introduced an amendment at the request of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers that states the board cannot require that a statement attesting to one's retirement status be notarized; and it shall allow anyone who previously held a credential but let it "lapse" and who satisfies either the 65+ years of age or 30 consecutive years requirement be able to get the credential back with retired status.

Thank you for your attention to this legislation. I respectfully ask for your support of SB 156.

BOB KULP

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 69TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

To: Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations

From: State Representative Bob Kulp – 69th Assembly District

Re: April 16, 2019

Date: Support for Senate Bill 156

Thank you Chairman Kapenga, Vice-Chairman Craig, and fellow members of the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations for holding a public hearing today on Senate Bill 156. As the Assembly co-author of Senate Bill 156, I appreciate having the opportunity to register in support of this legislation.

The bill creates an emeritus status for retired professionals including architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers and professional land surveyors. Because of the pride that goes along with being part of these professions, the bill recognizes these professionals who have chosen to cease to actively practice, but who have committed their lives to obtaining an education, gaining experience, passing an examination, and maintaining their credentials. These professionals deserve and have earned the emeritus status.

Under the bill and amendment, any rules promulgated by the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Professional Land Surveyors establishing continuing education requirements must provide that an applicant for credential renewal who is at least 65 years old, or who has actively maintained that credential for at least 30 consecutive years is exempt from continuing education requirements upon certification to the Examining Board that the applicant has retired from and no longer engages in the professional practice. Under the bill, an exempt person may continue to use his or her professional title, but may not engage in the relevant practice. In addition, under this bill, the exempt person pays only one-half of the applicable renewal fee in order to maintain their professional credential.

I also support Senate Amendment 1 that was offered by Senator Kooyenga. In addition to letting current credential holders designate their credentials as retired status, the amendment also allows former credential holders who had let their credentials lapse, but who would otherwise satisfy the retired status criteria, to pay one-half the renewal fee and regain their credentials with the retired status. Lastly, the amendment prohibits the Board from requiring that a person's statement certifying that the person is retired and no longer practicing be notarized.

I respectfully ask committee members to join me in supporting Senate Bill 156 and voting to recommend passage of this legislation. Thank you again for scheduling the public hearing today, and thank you for your time and consideration.

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 69TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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District: (715) 687-3287 | Rep.Kulp@legis.wi.gov

April 16, 2019

Re: 2019 SB 156 Emeritus Architects Bill

Good Morning members of the Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations, thank you for holding this public hearing and for the opportunity to speak. My name is Michael Eberle, I live at 6969 Apprentice Place in Middleton, Wisconsin and I am here today to voice my support for 2019 Senate Bill 156.

I have been a licensed architect in Wisconsin since 1996 and I am a Principal with Aro Eberle Architects, located just off the corner of the capitol square on King Street.

As a bit of background, I am a past President and Vice President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Southwest Wisconsin Chapter; a past Secretary / Treasurer, Vice President, and President of AIA Wisconsin; and I currently serve as Secretary / Treasurer on the Wisconsin Architects Foundation Board.

In December of 2011, I was appointed by Governor Walker to the Architects Section of the Joint Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors and I completed my term in February 2017. During my tenure, I had the privilege to serve as Secretary of Joint Examining Board as well as Vice Chair and Chair of the Architects Section. The purpose of the Architects Section is to understand the specific education, examination, and experience requirements for registration as an architect. The Section works through the Joint Board to find commonalities with the regulation of five related design professions.

It was during my first Architects Section meeting in 2012 that I became more fully aware of the need for an "Emeritus" or "Retired" credential for Architects. During that meeting we reviewed numerous requests from architects that were:

1. At, or nearing, the end of their career in the architecture profession,
2. Were interested in continuing to utilize their "Architect" title and no longer practicing in the profession of architecture, and
3. Were requesting an "Exemption or Waiver" from mandatory continuing education requirements (a requirement that went into effect July 1, 2010).

During my time on the Architects Section, and in addition to these "Exemption" requests, which we routinely received on a bi-annual basis during license renewal and received during a Continuing Education Audit in 2016, we also had individuals attend our Section Meetings asking for development of such a credential. We consistently heard two themes from these individuals:

1. Why were they being penalized for no longer being able to utilize the “Architect” title after maintaining continuous registration and fulfilling an entire career as an “Architect?”
2. Continuing Education is for practicing architects, not for those no longer practicing.

Unfortunately, there is limited leeway within *Wisconsin Statute 443* and the *Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter A-E 12 “Continuing Education for Architects”* which requires “every (Architect) registrant complete at least 24 hours of continuing education, of which 16 hours shall be (Health, Safety, and Welfare) HSW topics pertinent to the practice of architecture”.

Exemptions from Mandatory Continuing Education are allowed for several reasons including “*extreme hardship*” but these are rarely granted and there are no provisions for Architects that have maintained registration for 30 continuous years and are over the age of 65.

Wisconsin registered Architects are currently forced to decide whether to forfeit their license, receive discipline for non-compliance with mandatory continuing education requirements, or request an extension and complete the continuing education.

As a matter of reference, our neighbors in Illinois allow “*Design professionals who place their license on “inactive” status may use the title “Retired” adjacent to the title of their profession.*” Architect Retired or Retired Architect. In Texas, the term “*Emeritus Architect or Architect Emeritus*” can be used by design professionals with “inactive” status that have reached the age of 65 and completed 20 years of registration.

I do not believe that professional licensure is a switch that will be turned “active” or “inactive” by most, but perhaps by a few that want or need to practice again. The Architects Section saw an increase in the number of “inactive” architects during the 2010 renewal and granted numerous reinstatements in 2012/2013 when the economy recovered. Also, I do not believe that there is concern about the cost of the renewal fees. With the Architects bi-annual renewal fee at \$82, and fees proposed to be half or \$41 for “retired or emeritus status”, these registration fees are still some of the lowest in the country. This is not a deterrent and the State may see more licenses maintained and a slight uptick in revenue.

I strongly believe that creating a “Retired or Emeritus” status for the Design Professionals that have committed most of their lives to obtaining an education, gaining the relevant experience, passing a rigorous examination, and then maintaining their credential for 30 consecutive years is the right thing to do and is good for the State to recognize those that deserve and have earned this status.

I would like to thank Senators Kooyenga, Marklein and Jacques for authoring this Bill and want to also thank cosponsors Representatives Kulp, Tusler, Anderson, Theisfeldt, Spiros, Skowronski and Brooks for their support.

Thank you for considering my comments. A copy of my remarks is available for inclusion in the public hearing minutes and I am available for questions.

Michael Eberle, AIA, NCARB
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Wisconsin Senate Hearing on SB 156

Testimony by Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E.

April 16, 2019

My name is Glen Schwalbach. I reside at 1090 Moonriver Drive, De Pere, WI. I am a Registered Professional Engineer, a P.E., and Vice-President of Government Affairs for the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers.

Thanks to the sponsors of this bill, SB 156, and thank you for holding this hearing today. I speak in support of the bill and the amendment to it and I propose an additional amendment.

To provide some context, about 17% to 19% of Wisconsin's engineers are registered. A number of them chose to become registered even though their work does not require registration in Wisconsin. They chose to move from being responsible to their employer to responsible to the public through State registration. P.E.'s, whether required to be registered or not, take their obligations for public safety, health and welfare very seriously. The "P.E." title is the symbol of their obligation and their commitment. Being a P.E. is who they are. The title of P.E. is earned and respected. That respect should continue into their retirement years similar as we do for the military who retain their title.

Many of these retired P.E.'s tend to be involved in our Professional Society or in various engineering societies by filling leadership roles, providing guidance for younger members in such issues as ethical practice, and volunteering for STEM projects such as our middle school math competition, for engineering scholarships programs, and for government affairs. Many engineers are involved in promoting the profession in schools. We believe it is important to make students aware of the P.E. credential. It is also important for the person promoting it to actually have the credential even if he or she is retired.

The question did come up this weekend as to why "30" years to qualify and why do those years have to be "consecutive". It seems that even twenty years of service should qualify for "retired" status and that those should not have to be consecutive. Life events do occur where a P.E. may have to interrupt their service and then return to it later. As long as the total years are still twenty, the P.E. should qualify. "Twenty years" of experience has some consistency with other states when they consider only that aspect of being qualified to be a P.E.

So, a user-friendly process for these P.E.'s to retire and still be a P.E., albeit a retired one, recognizes their service and is likely to encourage them to stay involved in the softer side of engineering.

Please support SB 156 and its amendment with some revisions.

Thank you.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E.

Email: glenschwalbach@netzero.com, Cell: 920-680-2436

APRIL 15, 2019

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 156 "RETIRED ARCHITECTS..."

BY: A. J. GERSICH, 5718 KILKENNY PLACE, FITCHBURG, WI.

TO: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BENEFITS, LICENSING & STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF SB 156 AND WISH TO EXPRESS THANKS TO SEN. KOOMENGA AND THIS BILL'S OTHER AUTHORS AND CO-SPONSORS. THEIR EFFORTS IN THIS MATTER ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

I AM NOT A RETIRED ARCHITECT BUT RATHER AN ARCHITECT MEMBER OF THE JOINT EXAMINING BOARD OF ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS AND DESIGNERS OF ENGINEERING SYSTEMS (AKA "JOINT EXAMINING BOARD.") I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECT'S SECTION OF THE JOINT EXAMINING BOARD. I HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE JOINT EXAMINING BOARD'S LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ON THE "RETIRED ARCHITECTS..." BILL.

BOTH THE JOINT EXAMINING BOARD AND THE ARCHITECT'S SECTION WHOLLY ENDORSE THE BILL AND ITS AMENDMENT, AND WISH IT TO BECOME LAW. HAVING HEARD FROM MANY CREDENTIAL-HOLDERS ACROSS WISCONSIN, THERE IS CLEARLY WIDESPREAD DESIRE FOR A "RETIRED" STATUS DESIGNATION.

PLEASE GIVE THIS BILL YOUR SUPPORT AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO GET IT TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR ENACTING INTO LAW.
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!

- A. J. Gersich



Thomas Hirsch, FAIA

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14 North Allen Street
Madison, WI 53726-3924

Memorandum

To: Senate Committee On Regulatory Licensing Reform

Re: **SB 156**

Date: 15 April 2019

I write in support of the bill which would allow retire, senior architects the continued use of the identifier "architect." I am such a senior architect and would benefit from its passage, although not too soon I hope.

I believe there others like myself who take pride in responsible practice and who would like to retain a professional credential after we cease to be actively practicing. However, I do not see any justification for requiring at least 30 consecutive years of practice, (Section 1.a) and, furthermore, having to demonstrate that would like be an insurmountable burden for pactioners in documentation. I suggest that language be struck.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter. If you have any questions, please let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hirsch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.