



To: Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

From: Lance Kinney, Executive Director
Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE)

Subject: Progress Report on Implementation of Legislation passed through the committee in the 82nd Regular and First Called Sessions

Date: January 11, 2013

House Bill 2284 defines the overlap between the practice of engineering and architecture in the state of Texas, clarifying the scope of practice, primarily in relation to issues of building design. TBPE has implemented all requirements set out in the bill. Since the last update to this committee, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE) and the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE) have continued to collaboratively ensure alignment in communicating issues to those professional licensees who are affected by these changes. Details about this bill and our progress can be found on the TBPE website: <http://engineers.texas.gov/overlap.html>

House Bill 3 (First Called Session) relating to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) Windstorm Insurance program included a requirement for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to establish a roster of Professional Engineers qualified to do windstorm design. The bill required cooperation between TDI and TBPE to develop a means of verifying the competency of engineers related to windstorm design. TBPE developed procedures for implementing the program, including a jointly-developed online assessment of windstorm competency. TBPE has completed its statutory requirements: the assessment system and engineer roster are in place and applications are currently being processed. TDI rules impose a deadline of December 31, 2012, when the new requirements will be in effect. A web page with more information may be found on the TBPE website: <http://engineers.texas.gov/windstorm.html>

House Bill 2607 exempts engineers engaged in the evaluation of oil and gas resources that are licensed in a state that does not prohibit similar activities in that state by a Texas engineer from the regulatory requirements of the Texas Engineering Practice Act. This means engineers licensed in other states with similar provisions to HB 2067 can practice engineering related to the evaluation of oil and gas reservoirs in Texas. Currently, Louisiana is the only other state with a similar provision; therefore, a Texas petroleum engineer is allowed to practice engineering related to evaluation of oil and gas reservoirs in Louisiana.