

SUBJECT: Reduced professional fees for engineers for age or disability

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Wilson, Kubiak, Goolsby, D. Jones, Pickett, Torres, Yarbrough
0 nays
2 absent — Brimer, Dear

SENATE VOTE: On final approval, April 20 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: The Engineering Practice Act allows the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers to exempt from license renewal fees professional registered engineers age 65 and older.

DIGEST: SB 653 would allow the board to reduce registration and annual renewal fees for registered engineers who are disabled and non-practicing and to reduce registration fees, as well as renewal fees, for registered engineers who are 65 years of age or older. Disability would be defined to apply to physical and mental impairments that substantially limit the ability to earn a living, but to exclude impairment caused by addiction to alcohol or illegal drugs. A disabled engineer who resumed practice would have to notify the board the board within 15 days of doing so.

The section of the Engineering Practice Act dealing with applications and fees would be repealed to conform to the changes in the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1995, and would apply to a registration fee, annual renewal fee or reciprocal registration fee paid on or after the effective date.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Disabled non-practicing engineers should be allowed reduced registration and annual renewal fees to help them get along. Many of these engineers are registered and are active members in engineering associations, but find

it hard to get by financially if required to pay the \$225 in fees to maintain a license.

The bill also would correct a past oversight in failing to allow registered professional engineers who are 65 years of age or older reduced registration fees as well as renewal fees.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition