

# **One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB45**

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**Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: January 20, 2011**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 45 would change the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act primarily in two areas.

First, it would allow for limited cross-discipline practice by licensed architects and professional engineers between the professions of engineering and architecture on projects of specific occupancies under 6,000 square feet in size. The allowance of this practice was unanimously approved by the negotiated rulemaking committee convened by the Board of Engineers and Architects in summer 2010. The main reason for the change is to reduce the number of licensed professionals that are required on each such project, thereby improving access to professional services to the citizens of Nebraska.

Second, it allows for the 16-hour Structural Engineering exam beginning in April 2011. The Structural Engineering exam is developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and is the standard exam for licensure as a Professional Structural Engineer in Nebraska. Previously, it was split into two 8-hour exams and the existing Act reflects that exam format.

The bill would also:

- Move certain definitions within the Act. The definitions themselves do not change.
- Slightly expand allowable instances for authorization of per diem for Board members.
- Correct inconsistencies referring to exemptions to the Act.
- Align language related to complaints with national model law and allows complaints to be filed against organizations.
- Harmonize language related to distribution of penalty fees.
- Revise the level of exemption for public works projects using the method described in the existing statute. These changes are intended to reduce misinterpretations of the statute.
- Provide for enrollment of engineer-interns in Nebraska if the applicant has taken the Fundamentals of Engineering exam in another state.
- Clarify the exemption pertaining to certified trade professionals.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Tony Fulton