



Press Release

Indiana Society of Professional Engineers Opposes House Bill 1507

Indianapolis, Ind. (March 11, 2015) – The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) declares its strong opposition of House Bill (HB) 1507. Unfortunately, the House made a deadly mistake in passing this bill on February 2, 2015 by a vote of 63 yeas and 33 nays. It is now up to the Senate to defeat this dangerous bill.

HB 1507 lowers the qualifications of the State Building Commissioner, a position that requires the highest level of understanding building design and safety. By eliminating the requirement that this building professional be a licensed architect or engineer, this harmful bill only requires that this person have worked in the building and trade industry, along with having a related bachelor's degree.

Since this commissioner reviews design documents for most large structures, this person must know what to look for in construction documents, which only comes from thorough understanding of Indiana Building Codes. Only licensed engineers and architects are specially trained to understand the intricacies of structural design and safety issues that distinguish them from other professions.

Too often we hear about fatalities and injuries because of poorly designed buildings or systems. We need to look no further than the Indiana State Fair stage collapse of August 13, 2011, that killed seven and injured 58 others. Based upon the official investigation report, inadequate lateral load resisting capacity caused the stage to fail. Further, no licensed professional conducted a review of the structure prior to that deadly event, an inspection that could have prevented these needless deaths.

“We should be strengthening our laws, not weakening them,” declared Dr. Scott S. Haraburda, ISPE President. “We demand that the Senate do the right thing and defeat HB 1507 from eroding enforcement of building codes that have protected Hoosiers for many years.”

Since June 4, 1937, the ISPE has actively promoted and defended the professional interests of all engineering professionals throughout the State of Indiana, including its more than 13,000 licensed professional engineers. This organization helps in protecting the public, supporting engineering ethical conduct and professionalism, along with service to the public.