

Re: Temporary Licensure Bill – HB 1319

I am a licensed land surveyor in South Dakota and I oppose HB 1319 for the following reasons:

- I see a difficulty of the South Dakota Board of Technical Professions (SDBTP) monitoring and processing of temporary applicants. Also, a disciplinary authority isn't identified to handle complaints after the expiration of temporary licenses.
- There is currently a statutory comity/reciprocity process available that takes only 10 to 60 days, depending on the applicant's submittal timing. We do not view this as a bureaucratic barrier, or an economic disadvantage for the applicant. Land surveying practices vary significantly from state to state and we believe the existing SDBTP comity process best serves the public safety.
- The bill proposes to "safeguard the health and safety of the public". We do not believe the approval of this bill will positively impact public health and safety in the state. The citizens of South Dakota are not better protected and professional accountability is not enhanced by removing or replacing the current process in favor of an abbreviated and short term license.
- This bill may jeopardize project continuity and accountability by encouraging utilization of a temporary license by larger firms with multiple staff members .
- SDBTP requires that a firm also be registered. Therefore, a temporary business registration would also be required for a firm that has a licensed person working in this state. The current language does not address this.
- The bill has been portrayed to the media as a way to promote movement of a licensed person from one state to another, yet establishing residency is not a requirement for the temporary license.
- South Dakota land surveyors and other technical professionals are required to participate in continuing education and be able to document to SDBTP upon request. Not all states have that requirement.
- There are too many differences in the licensed fields to appropriately address the disparate professions in one generalized process and there should be a process to investigate and address the various licensing processes and develop a plan that is appropriate and compatible with individual licensure boards and professions prior to formulating a bill for temporary licensure.