

January 31, 1955.
Departmental Affairs.

House File 193
By HENRY, WATSON, HARBOR,
and McNEAL.

Passed House, Date
Vote: Ayes Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date
Vote: Ayes Nays.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend section one hundred fourteen point fourteen (114.14), Code 1954, relating to the requirements for registration as a professional engineer or land surveyor.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

- 1 Section 1. Section one hundred fourteen point fourteen
2 (114.14), Code 1954, is amended as follows:
- 3 1. Strike the word "two" from line four (4) of paragraph
4 "a" of subsection one (1) and substitute in lieu thereof the word
5 "four".
- 6 2. Strike the word "six" from line six (6) of paragraph "b"
7 of subsection one (1) and substitute in lieu thereof the word
8 "eight".
- 9 3. Strike the word "two" from line three (3) of paragraph
10 "a" of subsection two (2) and substitute in lieu thereof the word
11 "four".
- 12 4. Strike the word "six" from line three (3) of paragraph
13 "b" of subsection two (2) and substitute in lieu thereof the word
14 "eight".
- 1 Sec. 2. The provisions of this Act shall not apply

- 2 to any person to whom a certificate as an engineer in
- 3 training shall have been issued prior to the effective
- 4 date of this Act.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 193

The science and practice of engineering has made many advances since the early registration laws were enacted in Iowa and in other states, and very few men can gain the competence in six years that is needed now to fulfill the objectives of engineering registration, namely, to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare.

Similarly, property has become more valuable than it was a generation ago, and the problems of land surveying are more complicated than they were. Good judgment that comes from experience is very important, and it seems impossible to acquire that experience in as short a period as six years.

All states of the United States now have laws that regulate the practice of engineering and land surveying and that provide for the registration of qualified persons as professional engineers and land surveyors. Most of these states have adopted the qualification requirement of our proposed change, namely, four years after graduation from a recognized engineering college, or a total of eight years of acceptable engineering experience.

This matter of engineering registration, like similar questions, is reserved to the states and there is no federal registration, that is, a registration that permits an engineer to practice anywhere in the United States. Therefore, each professional engineer and land surveyor must apply for and obtain registration in each state where he wishes to practice. Over the years the boards of engineering examiners of the various states have harmonized their requirements (in so far as their state laws permit) so that it is now possible for an engineer registered in one state to receive registration by endorsement in a second state, provided that the qualifications and conditions that controlled his registration in the first state equal those of the second state.

It is at this point that a man registered under our minimum requirements in Iowa (graduation from a recognized engineering school plus two years of experience, or six years of acceptable engineering experience) is handicapped when he seeks registration in those states having the higher requirements. He must wait until he has gained additional experience to meet the higher requirements of that board.