

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
1917 SOUTH IH-35, BOARD ROOM, AUSTIN, TX
MAY 25, 2017 - 10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER. Dr. Sina Nejad, P.E., Acting Chair, called the Legislative Committee of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to order at 10:00am at the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, 1917 S. IH35, Austin, TX. (NOTE: all votes are unanimous unless noted).

1. Roll call and welcome visitors.

Elvira Reyna	Chair (absent)
Albert Cheng	Member
Dr. Sina Nejad, P.E.	Member (Acting Chair)
Edward Summers, Ph.D.	Member

Ms. Veena Mohan, Assistant Attorney General, was present to provide legal counsel to the Board. Mr. Edmundo Gonzalez, Jr. P.E., Mr. Jose Guerra, P.E., and Mr. Govind Nadkarni, P.E., Advisory Members for the Board, were present.

The following staff members were present:

Lance Kinney, Ph.D., P.E.	Executive Director
David Howell, P.E.	Deputy Executive Director
Dave Daigle	Director of Compliance & Enforcement
Rick Strong, P.E.	Director of Licensing
Morgen Cuming, JD	Staff Attorney
Dorothy Gonzales	Executive Assistant

Visitors. Terry Bilderback, P.E., Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE); Trish Smith, TSPE Executive Director; Dr. Daniel Wong, P.E., Board Member; Sam Kannappan, P.E.; Kyle Womack, P.E.

2. Public comment. None.

DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON THE FOLLOWING (AGENDA ITEMS 3-6):

3. Discuss and possibly approve the February 16, 2017, Legislative Committee Minutes.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Cheng/Nejad) to approve the February 16, 2017, Legislative Committee Minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

4. Update of 85th legislative session activities.

Mr. Howell presented the list of bills that the agency tracked. He explained the codes on the side of the bills. He added that 10 bills on the list have made it through the legislative process but have not been signed by the Governor. He commented on several bills,

including HB30 which is related to engineering contracts with state government; a bill related to drones; a rule making bill from which SDSI agencies are exempt; open records which will affect how we respond; contract using E-verify which the agency already does; and leave policies for agencies.

The Legislative adjourns on Monday. He does not anticipate any upcoming action that would affect the agency.

Dr. Summers asked regarding damages recovery related to frivolous regulatory actions by a state agency as mentioned in HB30. Mr. Howell commented the agency is also tracking SB813 which could pass but added that the person making accusation would have to prove the action was frivolous. Mr. Cheng gave an example in South Texas where Legislature believes that a couple of state agencies have overstepped their bounds when dealing with a situation. He encouraged the Board members to build relationship with Legislators, especially with incoming Legislators. He added there was an amendment to a bill regarding the removal of fingerprinting when getting your professional license. Mr. Howell added that SB91 asked state agencies that require fingerprinting to submit a report outlining the effectiveness of fingerprinting.

5. **Issues for future consideration and schedule next committee meeting.**

None.

6. ADJOURN.

Dr. Nejad adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Date Committee approved minutes as submitted: August 17, 2017

Date Board accepted minutes: August 17, 2017