



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

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Illinois Engineers Warn Legislation Could Risk Public Safety *HB 680 Would Gut Qualifications-Based Selection Processes for Local Governments*

SPRINGFIELD – The American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois (ACEC-IL) and its hundreds of member companies across the state are warning against legislation that would deprioritize professional qualifications in local government procurement processes, potentially risking public safety.

The legislation under consideration is HB 680 which amends the State of Illinois’ Local Government Professional Services Selection Act to circumvent current state and federal law requiring Qualifications-Based Selection processes for engineering and architectural services. If it were to become law, HB 680 could result in less qualified engineering and architectural services companies designing and engineering the roads and bridges we drive on, the railways and airports commuters and goods travel through, and the schools and senior care facilities that our loved ones spend their time in.

HB 680 would stifle completion and entrepreneurship within the engineering industry. The legislation also could create more barriers to entry for small, minority, women, and veteran-owned companies and limit their opportunities to work on significant infrastructure projects around the state.

“HB 680 would drive a race to the bottom in the selection process, potentially risking the safety and dependability of our public infrastructure. Illinoisans deserve to have their roads and bridges, energy production plants, water treatment facilities, and other vital public infrastructure built by the most qualified professionals,” said **Kevin Artl, president and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois**. “There is a reason that Qualifications-Based Selection processes are the industry standard and required by law in 46 states. Illinois’ 47,800 engineering and architectural industry professionals stand firmly against HB 680 and the scrapping of Qualifications-Based Selection.”

The current Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process is an open and fair, competitive selection process that allows government bodies to hire the most qualified professionals. QBS processes are recommended by the American Bar Association, the American Public Works Association, and are required of federal agencies and all state and local transportation agencies when using federal transportation funds.

The engineering and architectural services sector is a significant economic driver in Illinois, supporting over 150,000 jobs, paying \$9.7 billion in wages, and contributing over \$1.35 billion in state and local taxes when factoring in direct, indirect, and induced contributions. Workers in the industry are well-paid, with the average annual salary of a full-time employee being \$88,000 in a broad range of occupations and skill levels, from civil engineers and computer systems analysts to accountants and administrative assistants. Overall, Illinois’ engineering and architectural industry contributes nearly \$20 billion to the state’s GDP.

About the American Council of Engineering Companies

Representing hundreds of companies, we are the voice of the engineering industry in Illinois. With roots dating back more than 100 years, ACEC Illinois represents more than 11,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors and other specialists. Our primary mission is to strengthen the business environment for our member firms through government advocacy, political action, and business education. For more information, visit www.acecil.org.

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