

**DEFINITIONS OF THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE
AND OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING**

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
to
THE GOVERNOR
and
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SD 9, 1962

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply
Richmond
1961

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DEFINITIONS OF THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING

A REPORT

of the

VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Richmond, Virginia, November 1, 1961.

To:

HONORABLE J. LINDSAY ALMOND, JR., *Governor of Virginia*

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

Virginia has regulated the practice of architecture, professional engineering and land surveying for more than forty years but the statutes do not define the professions which they regulate. A bill was introduced in the 1960 Session of the General Assembly to define these professions but failed of passage. However, the General Assembly adopted Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 directing the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to make a study and report upon the advisability of defining these professions. The resolution is as follows:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 6

Directing the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to study the statutes relating to architects and professional engineers and recommend appropriate statutory definitions for the practice of these professions.

Whereas, the present statutes relating to architects and professional engineers do not set out a full definition of the practice of the profession of architect or professional engineer; and

Whereas, the work of architects and professional engineers is of vital interest to the public service since it is relied on by the public and the individual for both safety and comfort; and

Whereas, a full statutory definition of the professions is necessary if they are to be effectively policed in the interest of the public welfare; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council is hereby directed to make a study of the statutes relating to architects and professional engineers and recom-

mend appropriate statutory definitions for the practice of these professions to the end that the public may be properly protected.

The Council shall conclude its study and make its report to the Governor and General Assembly not later than October one, nineteen hundred sixty-one.

Pursuant to this resolution the Council requested E. E. Willey, member of the State Senate, to serve as chairman of a committee of the Council to make the initial study and report upon this subject. The Council selected the following to serve with Senator Willey upon this committee: Lloyd C. Bird, member of the Senate, Chesterfield; A. O. Budina, Architect, Richmond; Dewey G. Croy, Building Inspector, Fairfax; Lt. Col. Sam W. Dobyms, of V. M. I., Lexington; Walther B. Fidler, member, House of Delegates, Sharps; James F. Hope, Suffolk; Thomas J. McDonald, Professional Engineer, Norfolk; W. E. Vellines, Jr., Chief Engineer C. & P. Telephone Co., Richmond; Elbert H. Waldron, Roanoke; W. C. Whitehead, Norfolk; and Turner N. Burton, Director, Department of Professional and Occupational Registration, member, ex officio; John B. Boatwright, Jr., and F. W. Harkrader, Jr., served as Secretary and Recording Secretary, respectively, to the committee.

Turner N. Burton served with the committee, representing the Department of Professional and Occupational Registration. His Department and the State Board for the Examination and Certification of Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, are in charge of the administration of those provisions of law which regulate the practice of architecture, professional engineering and land surveying.

The Committee compiled information concerning practices in other states, the conditions confronting the Department and Board in the administration of the law, and the difficulties which have arisen in the enforcement of the present statutes. After due publicity a public hearing was held which was well attended. In addition meetings were held with representatives of the various groups affected.

The Committee considered the material before it and made a report to the Council. The Council has reviewed the report of the Committee and now submits its own report.

The laws regulating the practice of architecture, professional engineering, and land surveying have been on the statute books of Virginia for more than forty years. The practices followed by those in these professions are well established by custom but the activities of the professional architects and engineers include many things which are done by those who are not trained as architects and engineers and for which such training is not essential in the public interest. We have not been presented with any definitions of these two professions which, in our judgment, are sufficiently exact to cover the activities which have been generally regulated by statute for so long a time without also including what is being done by persons who are not, and who do not need to be, professionally trained. The public safety and interest is involved in regulating the professions concerned and these appear to have been well protected under the present law. The public would be adversely affected by excluding from their present activities those persons who do not need professional training in their lines of work but who would be regulated under the definitions we have seen.

We, therefore, are not in a position to recommend the adoption of any statutory definition of the professions of architecture and professional engineering.

We express our appreciation to the members of the Committee for contributing their time and effort to the consideration of this subject, and to those who, at the public hearing and otherwise, gave the benefit of their views.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT Y. BUTTON, Chairman
CHARLES K. HUTCHENS, Vice-Chairman
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