

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF THE**

**Board of Examiners
of Land Surveyors**

The Administrative Functions of the Board
of Examiners of Land Surveyors Should be
Consolidated With Three Related Boards

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August 1997

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**Antonio E. Jones, Ph.D.
Director**

August 17, 1997

The Honorable Larry Wiedebusch
State Senate
403 Fern Drive
Glen Dale, West Virginia 26038-1005

The Honorable Vicki Douglas
House of Delegates
Building 1, Room E-213 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0470

Dear Chairs:

Pursuant to the West Virginia Sunset Law, we are transmitting this Preliminary Performance Review of the **Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors** which will be reported to the Joint Committee on Government Operations on Sunday, August 17, 1997. The issue covered herein is "The Administrative Functions of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors Should be Consolidated with Three Related Boards."

Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Jones".

Antonio Jones
Director

AEJ/mhm

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Executive Summary

This preliminary performance review of the **West Virginia State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors**, created in 1969 (§30-13A-1, West Virginia Code.), views the board from the perspective of efficiency of using one administrative staff to support related boards.

ISSUE AREA 1: The Administrative Functions of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors Should be Consolidated With Three Related Boards.

The performance evaluation issue of consolidation of administrative functions does not stem from the lack of performance by the **Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors (BELS)**, but rather addresses the larger issue of proliferation of licensing boards in West Virginia. There are three reasons to consolidate the administrative staff of related Boards: (1) proliferation of licensing boards creates duplication and reduces accountability; (2) economy of scale of staffing skills in administering exams, processing licenses, investigating complaints, are transferable, and provides a centralized location of files and improved support to the boards; and (3) geographic dispersion of boards around the state reduces accessibility to the public. The public and the four professions can be better served by consolidating the administrative functions of related licensing boards, thereby reducing duplication, improving accountability, increasing efficiency through skilled staff, streamlining processes and staggering license renewal, improving investigation of complaints and increasing accountability to the public. **The self-regulation of these professions is not the issue. The Legislative Auditor does not propose consolidation of the boards into a single board, instead, the Legislative Auditor proposes merely the consolidation of the boards' administrative functions.**

Currently, the West Virginia Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors is located in Fayetteville. This board was created to serve and protect the public from unqualified individuals practicing land surveying. The Legislative Auditor selected three related boards which share parts of a larger process in the construction industry. They are: the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, located in Charleston; the West Virginia State Board of Architects, located in Huntington; and the West Virginia State Board of Landscape Architects, located in Morgantown. Legislative Auditors selected these boards because they share similar requirements, powers, and duties with the Land Surveyors Board.

Of the four licensing boards being discussed, the Board of Professional Engineers is the only one that is located in Charleston. Since the State Capitol is located in Charleston, it is the logical place that the public will first try to locate a particular board. By having these boards located in different cities, the public is put at a disadvantage. In some instances, the location of licensing boards is determined by the hometown of appointed members. For example, the Land Surveyors Board's Secretary resides in Fayetteville and has one staff person who lives close by the office. Also, the Chairman of the Landscape Architects Board is a faculty member at West Virginia University and has one staff person who is an employee of the university and works for the Board on an as need basis.

According to the Land Surveyors Board members, the Board's office needs to be located in or near the hometown of where the Secretary of the Board resides. However, the **West Virginia Constitution, Article 6, §20** states, ... **"The seat of government shall be at Charleston, until otherwise provided by law."** Legislative Auditors checked nine telephone books throughout the state for listing of the boards; no boards were listed in five of the nine. In addition, the Land Surveyors Board's clerk told Legislative Auditors that on several occasions people have contacted the Board's office only after being referred by a surveyor or a legislator.

Several states have combined boards or staff in one centralized location. These professions include land surveying, professional engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Legislative Auditors contacted boards in Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, Virginia, Arizona, and North Carolina to compare the number of full-time staff, board members, people licensed or registered, annual operating budget, and average cost of a license. (See Table Two on page 14).

The Executive Director of the Arizona Board sums it up well: *"A single board handling dealing with all of the issues increases communication between the professions and reduces the possibility of professional bias becoming a major driving force. The cited professions have some natural relationships in the performance of their professional duties and there is some cross profession knowledge and also some concerns about practice impacts. The issues, I believe, get a more balanced discussion and the decisions, in my opinion, are more moderate and more in the public's best interest."*

Review Objective, Scope and Methodology

This preliminary performance review of the West Virginia **State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors** is required and authorized by the West Virginia **Sunset Law**, Chapter 4, Article 10, Section 11 of the West Virginia **Code**, as amended. The Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors, created in 1969, is mandated to examine applicants for competency as land surveyors, issue licenses, issue regulations in order to protect the public, receive complaints against surveyors and issue disciplinary orders if necessary.

The objective of this review was to determine the Board's effectiveness in protecting the public. The scope of this report focuses on the Board's effectiveness as an autonomous board and how it may better serve the public and its members by consolidating administration with other boards.

The methodology included a questionnaire to the Board members, examining the Board's complaint log, observation of a Board meeting, contact with boards in related fields in West Virginia to obtain data, and contact with various other states which have combined boards to obtain information. This performance evaluation complied with **Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)**.

Introduction & Background

The 1969 legislation created the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors under §30-13A-1 of the West Virginia Code. The Board consists of three members appointed by the governor and has one full time clerk. Each Board member shall have been actively engaged in the practice of land surveying for at least 10 years. The members of the Board shall be appointed for overlapping terms of three years each ending on the 30th day of June. The Board shall elect from its membership a chairman and secretary-treasurer. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum and the Board shall meet at least once annually to conduct the licensing examination and to transact such other business as may come before it.

The primary duties of the Board include: examine applicants for competency as land surveyors in the state of West Virginia, and if they are found competent, issue them a license to practice land surveying in West Virginia as necessary; issue regulations to control the practice of land surveying in West Virginia to protect the public; receive complaints against surveyors; determine the merits of the complaints; and issue disciplinary orders if necessary.

The Board normally meets once in the Spring and once in the Fall to administer the examinations for land surveyors. The Board administers three separate tests, which are Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS), Principles and Practice of Land Surveying (PPS), and the West Virginia State Exam (WVS). The Board prepares and grades the WVS portion of the licensing exam. If an individual has the necessary education and passes the FLS, then he or she becomes what is called a Surveyor-In-Training. An applicant must pass the FLS before taking the PPS and WVS. The Board receives its testing materials from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, which is located in Clemson, South Carolina.

Effective July 1, 1995, an amendment eliminated the professional engineers exemption to licensure as a professional surveyor. The professional engineers were given one year from the effective date to be licensed without an examination. There are currently 1,654 active licensed surveyors and there were 747 active licensed surveyors at the end of 1994. The increase occurred with the professional engineers being "grand fathered".

The Board's office is located in Fayetteville, West Virginia. The Board leases office space from a law firm. The current lease expired on June 30, 1997. The lease covers 550 square feet at \$300 per month, including utilities. The March 21 Board meeting, the Board discussed the lease contract. There was a tentative motion to extend the lease for three years. The leaser needs to get approval from the other two members of the law firm, which should be a mere formality.

ISSUE AREA 1: The Administrative Functions of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors Should be Consolidated With Three Related Boards.

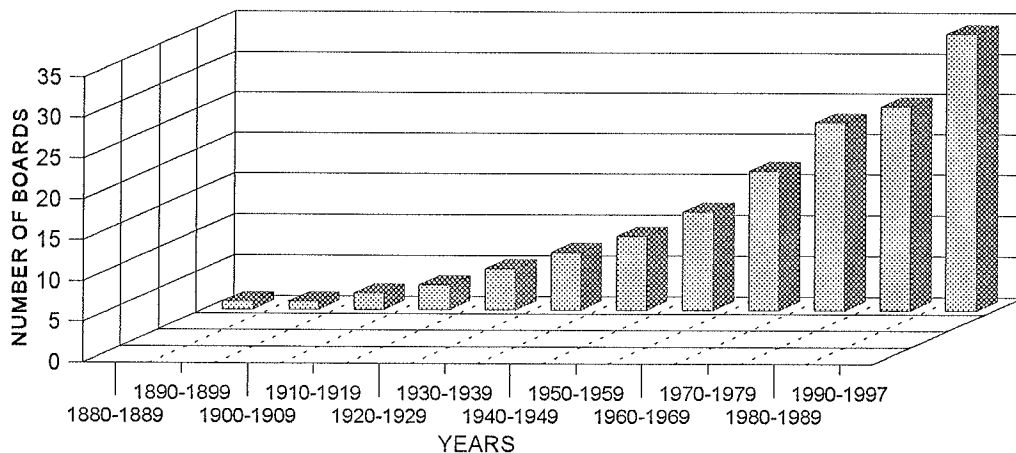
The performance evaluation issue of consolidation of administrative functions does not stem from the lack of performance by the **Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors (BELS)**, but rather addresses the larger issue of proliferation of licensing boards in West Virginia. There are three reasons to consolidate the administrative staff of related Boards: (1) proliferation of licensing boards creates duplication and reduces accountability; (2) economy of scale of staffing skills in administering exams, processing licenses, investigating complaints, are transferable, and provides a centralized location of files and improved support to the boards; and (3) geographic dispersion of boards around the state reduces accessibility to the public. The public and the four professions can be better served by consolidating the administrative functions of related licensing boards, thereby reducing duplication, improving accountability, increasing efficiency through skilled staff, streamlining processes and staggering license renewal, improving investigation of complaints and increasing accountability to the public. **The Legislative Auditor does not propose consolidation of the boards into a single board. The self-regulation of these professions is not the issue, instead, the Legislative Auditor proposes merely the consolidation of the boards' administrative functions.**

The need for consolidating similar licensing boards that perform the same functions as other licensing boards was recognized during the 1997 legislative session in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22. **The resolution requested a ... "study of the process of all boards and commissions of examination and registration who issue licenses to applicants..."** The resolution noted that boards have increased in numbers and the possibility of overlapping responsibilities and duplication appears to exist.

West Virginia's first licensing board was created in 1881 and the number has increased to 34 as of 1997. **Graph One** depicts the proliferation of licensing boards for the period 1881 through 1997.

GRAPH ONE

LICENSING BOARDS CREATED 1881-1997



Purpose and Common Characteristics

Our preliminary review of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors is a point of departure to propose consolidation of administrative functions. The Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors was created to serve and protect the public from unqualified individuals practicing land surveying. The Board is accomplishing its objectives by meeting at least two to four times annually for the past four years to conduct hearings on complaints and to discuss budgetary data, examination sites and possible revisions to policies. The Board has investigated and resolved an average of ten to twelve complaints in each of those four years. The Board is performing its duties however, combining it with three other cross-related professional boards would enhance its ability to better serve and protect the public from individuals not qualified to perform services or not performing to standards in the professions of land surveying, engineering, architecture and landscape architecture. In addition, each of these four professions have natural affiliations which have some cross-professional knowledge which impacts on professional practices. **The combining of these board's professions into one staff, combines similar licensing duties and administrative costs which can better serve the public with greater accessibility and will reduce licensing fees in the long term.**

The four boards share other common characteristics besides serving the public interest. The primary purpose of licensing boards is to promote the public welfare and regulate the profession by providing standards and testing before issuing a license. The Legislative Auditor selected the Professional Engineers Board, the Board of Architects, and the Board of Landscape Architects because of their natural relationship with the Board of Land Surveyors. All four boards share parts of a larger process in the construction industry. The boards share the following common duties: promulgating rules and regulations for the profession, administering tests and providing test sites, processing applications for licensing; charging fees for licenses and renewals; maintain roster of licensees, issuing, renewing, denying, suspending, or revoking licenses; and investigating alleged violations. The boards location, staff, membership and budget are reported in **Table One**.

Table One
General Information Regarding Selected Licensing Boards

Name of Board	Location of Board	Number of Staff	Number of Board Members	Number Registered	Total Revenues	Operating Costs
Land Surveyors	Fayetteville	1	3	1,654	\$79,335	\$44,342
Professional Engineers	Charleston	2	5	5,251	\$294,420	\$221,789
Architects	Huntington	2*	7	1,035	\$157,560	\$87,461
Landscape Architects	Morgantown	1**	3	109	\$8,120	\$7,131
Total		6	18	8,049	\$539,435	\$360,723

*One of the staff personnel works on a part-time basis. **The one staff person works on an hourly, as need basis.

All four professions are required to take a national examination. The **National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying** provides testing materials for both the land surveying and professional engineering professions. The **National Council of Architectural Registration Board** provides testing materials for the architecture profession. The **Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board** provides testing materials for the landscape architecture profession. Upon receiving a passing grade on the exam, which is administered by each board's staff, a license containing the respective profession's seal is issued.

Each of the four professions are required to renew their license on June 30 of each year. As of January 1997, there were 1,654 licensed land surveyors. A substantial increase in licenses issued by the land surveyors board occurred during fiscal year 1996 because of a change in statute that exempted professional engineers from the land surveyors examination if they were engaged in surveying work. As of fiscal year 1996, the professional engineers board had licensed 5,251 individuals; the architects board had licensed 1,035 individuals; and the landscape architects board had licensed 109 individuals. This is a combined total of 8,049 licenses issued by the four boards.

Staffing and Budgetary Operations

Boards maintain a staff to meet the requirements mandated. However, some boards cannot employ full-time staff because of fees generated will not cover the cost of a full-time employee. As shown in **Table One**, each board maintains a full or part-time staff as follows: the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors employs one full-time individual; the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers has one full-time administrator and one full-time secretary; the West Virginia State Board of Architects has one part-time deputy director and one full-time administrative secretary; and the West Virginia State Board of Landscape Architects has a part-

time secretary. The salaries and benefits for the boards' staff for 1996 fiscal year was \$144,056. The personal services cost associated with the boards indicates that two of the four employ a part-time staff. We noted that in addition to the personal services costs, the combined costs for office space and telephone service for 1996 was \$29,758.

Each board is compelled to charge licensing fees to be self-supporting to cover its operational cost. The amount of licensing fees charged is determined by the budgetary needs in complying with regulatory duty. Maintaining separate staff, offices and telephone systems creates a budgetary duplication. The combining of operational costs could over time, reduce the need for frequent increases in licensing fees. In addition, if all four of the board's administrative functions are combined, then it would make sense to have the license renewal dates staggered to provide for a more evenly workload.

Average License Cost

The four boards currently issue approximately 8,049 licenses per year which generates approximately \$540,000 in revenues. **Based on this information, licensees are paying an average of \$67 per license. The Legislative Auditor's staff survey of six states that have combined the regulation of these professions into one board with centralized staff, charged an average of \$45 per license. The average cost range for the six states was from a low of \$30 per license to a high of \$62 per license. Table Two shows the number of full-time staff, board members, number of licenses, annual operating budgets and an average cost per license for the six states surveyed. We conclude that autonomous boards become fee driven to meet their budgetary needs, which results in higher license fees being paid by the various professions.**

Table Two
Selected States With Combined Boards

Name of State	Full Time Staff	Number of Board Members	Total Number of Licenses	Annual Operating Budget	Average Cost of License
Minnesota	8	21	15,000	\$720,000	\$48
South Dakota	2	7	3,340	\$185,000	\$56
Kansas	4	13	12,221	\$370,977	\$30
Virginia	5	13	24,340	\$885,077	\$36
Arizona	15	9	18,529	\$878,500	\$47
North Carolina	13	9	16,800	\$1,043,650	\$62
West Virginia*	5	18	8,049	\$539,435	\$67

*If West Virginia was a combined administrative board.

Accessibility of Licensing Boards to the Public

Sometimes locating a licensing board is a difficult task, even for legislative staff. State legislators have received various complaints from citizens claiming that they have difficulty in contacting some licensing boards. This was noted in a preliminary performance review of the Board of Examiners in Counseling in 1995 which revealed that the staffing arrangement was ineffective in carrying out the mission and mandates of the board. The cause for this issue was no permanent staff, no office space and the use of an answering service that delayed response to complaints because the board members have other jobs. The legislature recommended to the board they make an effort to share office space and staff with other boards. However, this was not achieved. Instead, the Board of Examiners in Counseling hired a part-time employee and rented office space from the West Virginia Graduate college.

The clerk for the Land Surveyors Board told staff that on several occasions people were referred to the board by a surveyor or legislator. The Chairman of the Land Surveyors Board believes West Virginia citizens are best served by having the Board's office located in Fayetteville. According to the Board members, the Board's office needs to be located in or near the hometown of the Secretary of the Board. It has been the Board's practice to have its office located where the Secretary resides and this has been the case since the Board's formation.

The West Virginia Constitution, Article 6, §20 states ... "the seat of government shall be at Charleston, until otherwise provided by law." Only one of the four boards, the Board of Professional Engineers, is located in Charleston. Since the state capitol is located in Charleston, it is the logical place for the public to contact a board.

In addition, logic indicates that if you have part-time staff, locating a board could prove to be difficult. Part-time staffing requires the public to know who the board members are and where they are located. Since most board members have jobs or businesses, this hampers the public's accessibility to the board. One of the rolls for staff is to be available to answer the telephones for inquiries or to take complaints. The public knows that the seat of government is located in Charleston and would check the telephone book in the state government listing to see if the Land Surveyors Board is listed. Should a citizen have a complaint or desire to become licensed, finding a board's location appears to be a random event. Consumers using the telephone directory *yellow pages* are advised when contacting advertisers that a license may be required by the person or company providing services; specifically it reads:

"Advertisers may be required to be licensed by the State or Local Municipality. Consumers are advised to check for a valid license when using the services of these advertisers. For more information, contact your appropriate regulatory agency."

We checked nine telephone directories for Land Surveyors and the three related boards. **Table Three** shows that if you do not know the city of the board, you cannot find the number.

Table Three
Telephone Book Listings of Selected Cities

City	Land Surveyors	Engineers	Landscape Architects	Architects
Fayetteville/Oak Hill	Yes	No	No	No
Charleston	No	Yes	No	No
Martinsburg	No	No	No	No
Huntington	No	No	No	Yes
Beckley	Yes	No	No	No
Wheeling	No	No	No	No
Parkersburg	No	No	No	No
Morgantown	No	No	No	No
Bluefield/Princeton	No	No	No	No

Further, in the search for the boards, a member of the Legislative Auditor's Office placed four separate phone calls to "Directory Assistance" operator for the telephone numbers of each board. The operator was able only to provide numbers for the Professional Engineers Board and the Land Surveyors Board. The operator could not locate the Board of Architects nor the Board of Landscape Architects. The operator did give the main number to the State Capitol, which when contacted, was able to give the telephone numbers for those two boards.

The Combining of Similar Professions in Other States

Several states throughout the country have more than one profession combined into one board and one centralized location. These professions include land surveying, professional engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture. Legislative Auditors contacted six boards in other states (**Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, Virginia, Arizona, and North Carolina**) to obtain the following information: the number of full-time staff the board employs; the number of board members; the number of people licensed or registered; the annual operating budget; and average cost of license.

The **Minnesota** Board, which is comprised of **21** members and has a staff of **eight**, meets every other month (in the odd numbered months). In the even numbered months, the two sections of the Board meet. The sections are **Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Interior Design** and **Engineering/Land Surveying/Geoscience**. The sections are composed of Board members from each profession and deal with topics specific to each of the professions represented. Any actions contemplated by either section must be ratified by the entire Board. In addition, the Minnesota Board has two standing committees which do research on issues and make proposals to the full Board. The Examination and Licensing Committee and the Enforcement and Law Committee

meet every other month and consist of eight members each. The third standing committee is the Complaint Committee, comprised of five members. This committee meets monthly to handle complaints against licensed or certified practitioners. Appointments are made to all three committees by the Board Chair based on the interest of Board members and the need to have representation of all professions on as many committees as possible. **The Minnesota Board regulates 15,000 individuals in the six professions.**

The Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Board believes that the inclusion of these professions on one board has certain advantages. These include: 1) staff costs are less for one large board than for several smaller boards; 2) problems between professions are better met face-to-face rather than by letter or phone call; and 3) greater consistency between the professions in enforcement actions for similar violations.

The **South Dakota** Board consists of **seven** members and **two** staff persons. The Executive Director stated that a combined board is good in that it forces each profession to become more familiar with the other professions and understand other views. Difficulties between professions can be resolved before they become unmanageable. A combined board eases discussions. Board focus is on whole and public protection rather than "turf" and individual issues. **The Board regulates 3,790 professionals in four professions.**

The **Kansas** Board has **13** members and a staff of **four**. The Board consists of **four** professional engineers, **three** architects, **two** land surveyors, **one** landscape architect, and **three** public members. The Board meets in committees of **Professional Engineers/Land Surveyors** and **Architects/Landscape Architects** to consider issues pertaining to those professions. Then the Board meets as a **whole** for general policy making decisions and compliance issues.

Having a common (somewhat neutral) ground for working out very closely related issues is the biggest advantage in having a combined board, according to the Executive Director of the Kansas Board. The professions which are smaller in number also benefit by the revenue generated by the larger numbers, i.e., engineers vs. landscape architects. Smaller sized boards would have difficulty getting funding for staffing, increased communication via the Internet, newsletters, etc. A stronger enforcement program is also possible. **The Board regulates 12,747 licenses in four professions.**

The **Virginia** Board is a **13** member board consisting of **five** staff members. The Board is comprised of **three** architects, **three** professional engineers, **three** land surveyors, **two** landscape architects and **two** interior designers that meets four times a year to consider policy and procedure and to review complaints against individuals that affect the entire Board. Each section of the Board also functions in an **independent** fashion in order to review applications, conduct applicant interviews, and generally conduct business that is specific to that particular section. Each section also meets four times a year. **The Board regulates five professions and issues 26,200 licenses.**

The **Arizona** Board is a board of technical registration consisting of **nine** members and has

a staff of 15. According to the Executive Director of the Arizona Board, a combined board is more economical and efficient if properly designed and administered. Smaller boards very seldom have the resources to operate effectively and efficiently. The registration fee base in Arizona is large enough to provide quality service at a low cost. **The annual renewal cost is currently \$42. Next year, the Arizona Board anticipates cutting it back to approximately \$30-\$35 unless new programs are developed.**

In addition, the Executive Director of the Arizona Board states, *"A single board handling dealing with all of the issues increases communication between the professions and reduces the possibility of professional bias becoming a major driving force. The cited professions have some natural relationships in the performance of their professional duties and there is some cross profession knowledge and also some concerns about practice impacts. The issues, I believe, get a more balanced discussion and the decisions, in my opinion, are more moderate and more in the public's best interest."* Arizona has 18,529 licensees in four professions.

The North Carolina Board is comprised of **nine** members and **13** staff. The Board oversees the land surveying and engineering professions only. According to the Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Board of Registration, there are certain benefits to having a combined board and administrative staff. **These benefits include: 1) Commonality between the professions; 2) Larger registrant population helps keep fees lower; and 3) One staff and one office holds down overhead. The Board regulates 16,800 licensees in the two professions.**

Advantages of Having a Combined Board and Centralized Staff

The Council of State Governments in its report *Occupational Licensing: Centralizing State Licensure Functions*, concludes that combining what are often part-time or underutilized autonomous board staff into a central agency staff unit can make better use of space, time, and equipment, and renewal of licenses and collection of fees can be handled by a single integrated staff.

Further, the report states that more prompt and orderly work flow can result from a single central licensure agency staff. For example, the scheduling of license renewals can be staggered to promote more even workloads. Full-time staff reporting to an agency administrator can expedite decisions that might otherwise be delayed by part-time staff or infrequent board meetings.

A report by the California Office of the Auditor General lists potential benefits as a result of centralizing functions. It states, *"Centralizing functions that a number of individual entities are each performing on a small scale can result in a larger and more consistent volume of work being performed by one entity. The larger entity may realize increases in efficiency and decreases in costs that can be associated with economies of scale. Two examples of the benefits an entity may derive from economies of scale are a more efficient use of equipment and a reduced cost of supplies."*

Conclusion

The licensing boards are created to protect public welfare and provide oversight for professions. Accessibility to the citizens of this state is one of the top priorities of licensing boards. The state Constitution requires the seat of state government to be in Charleston. Since boards are fee driven and membership is limited, some professions are limited to office location. Board members are sometimes required to carry out the role of administrative staff because of limited funds. Consolidation provides boards with the budgetary needs for a centralized staff and required location which will provide greater accessibility to the public. In addition, the consolidation can provide the funding needed to hire an investigator who can investigate complaints for the four boards. This will allow the current staff to increase their focus on the day to day operations of the office and provide the board with an individual trained to conduct investigations therefore improving protection of the public.

The combining of administrative functions of the four boards provides an opportunity for the economy of scale to occur which is difficult to achieve with autonomous boards. Having four similar boards and staff located in different cities in West Virginia duplicates overhead cost for similar processes. The cost sharing of office space, telephone system, centralized storage of records and purchasing of new computer technology will provide a more efficient operation. A combined administrative effort will increased utilization of staff time and better use of office equipment which will further reduce operational cost. Administrative processes should become more uniform in nature and testing for all professions can be held in a centralized location simultaneously.

Recommendation 1

*The Legislature should consider consolidating the staff of the boards of **Land Surveyors, Professional Engineers, Architects, and Landscape Architects** into one administrative function, administered by an executive director and located at the seat of state government.*

Recommendation 2

As indicated in Appendix D, the proposed organizational chart for composition of the boards should remain the same to oversee their professions. An Executive Committee should be established, consisting of the four chairs of the boards and a lay member; the Executive Committee should have the authority to hire and have oversight of the staff.

Recommendation 3

The Legislature should consider allowing the Executive Committee to stagger the licensing renewals of the four licensing boards in order to create a more even workload and steady cash flow. An example of staggered renewal dates would be July 1 for Professional Engineers; September 1 for Architects; January 1 for Land Surveyors; and March 1 for Landscape Architects.

APPENDIX A
Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors Meeting Record
February 1993 - April 1996
Three Member Board

**Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors Meeting Record
February 1993 - April 1996
Three Member Board**

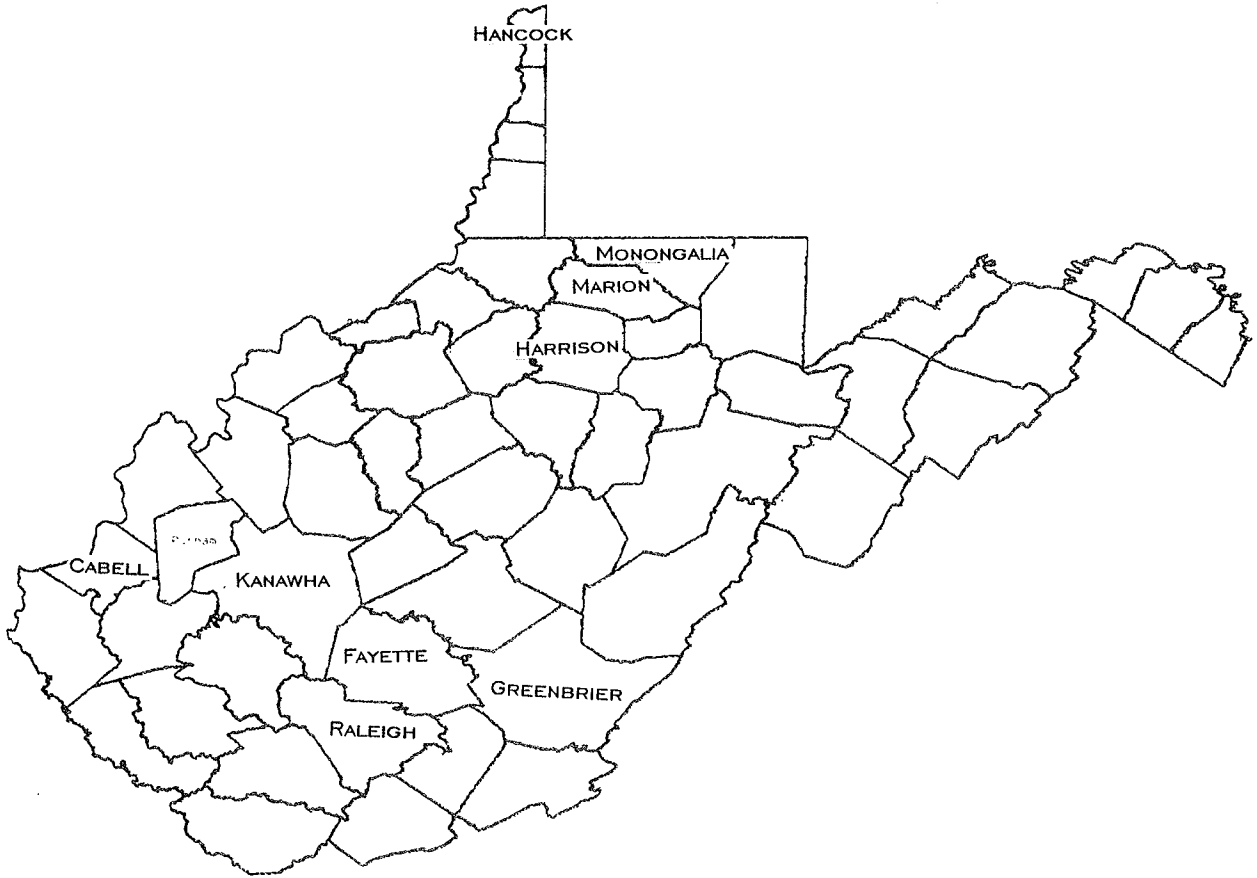
Dates of Board Meetings	Members in Attendance	Quorum Present
February 6, 1993	2	Yes
June 11, 1993	3	Yes
September 28, 1993	2	Yes
January 14, 1994	3	Yes
February 25, 1994	2	Yes
March 3, 1995	3	Yes
April 21, 1995	3	Yes
May 24, 1995	2	Yes
June 13, 1995	2	Yes
February 26, 1996	2	Yes
April 18, 1996	3	Yes

APPENDIX B
**Budget Comparison with Land Surveyors, Professional Engineers,
Landscape Architects and Architects**

Line Item No.	West Virginia Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors									
	Architects (8555), Landscape Architects (8528) and Professional Engineers (8549)					Consolidation with three other Boards				
	1996 BOA	1996 BLA	1996 PE	1996 BLS	1996 Combined Total	1995 BOA	1995 BLA	1995 PE	1995 BLS	1995 Combined Totals
1	32,335.32	0.00	67,085.75	13,008.00	112,429.07	37,784.60	0.00	71,538.25	13,008.00	122,330.85
2	4,275.00	0.00	0.00	5,349.93	9,624.93	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	4,700.00	5,900.00
10	139.50	0.00	505.28	116.25	761.03	155.00	0.00	350.28	155.00	660.28
11	2,451.90	0.00	5,054.65	978.96	8,485.51	2,890.58	0.00	5,396.20	981.04	9,267.82
12	0.00	0.00	8,680.00	3,368.00	12,048.00	0.00	0.00	8,680.00	3,368.00	12,048.00
14	172.25	0.00	445.77	0.00	618.02	101.58	0.00	403.38	0.00	504.96
16	3,044.78	0.00	5,433.24	1,235.76	9,713.78	12,032.93	0.00	5,429.82	1,235.76	18,698.51
20	7,293.73	332.48	17,706.60	6,112.04	31,444.85	7,050.63	207.26	21,279.65	2,423.73	30,961.27
21	3,478.02	0.00	10,194.36	442.46	14,114.84	4,450.66	3,064.00	3,702.29	641.84	11,858.79
22	4,864.00	0.00	15,205.00	4,000.00	24,069.00	4,806.00	0.00	14,278.00	3,600.00	22,684.00
24	1,665.18	0.00	2,614.60	1,409.25	5,689.03	1,945.89	0.00	1,851.53	1,317.08	5,114.50
25	7,448.46	1,518.75	21,852.94	0.00	30,820.15	5,114.49	406.25	10,022.50	415.91	15,959.15
26	11,236.16	2,679.47	17,931.29	1,710.06	33,556.98	9,517.87	1,510.01	12,549.43	1,379.26	24,956.57
27	653.99	0.00	4,622.18	0.00	5,276.17	485.32	0.00	2,677.58	0.00	3,162.90
28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	831.25	1,835.00	2,666.25
30	0.00	0.00	2,340.00	22.10	2,362.10	0.00	0.00	2,216.00	0.00	2,216.00
31	5,850.00	2,100.00	2,250.00	2,450.00	12,650.00	5,850.00	1,900.00	2,273.00	4,700.00	14,723.00
32	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,500.00	750.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,250.00	4,000.00
35	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.75	120.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	147.94	147.94
42	0.00	0.00	1,186.05	28.00	1,214.05	1,069.68	0.00	435.68	0.00	1,505.36
43	0.00	0.00	18.00	0.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50	(386.81)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(386.81)	313.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	313.39
51	1,448.60	0.00	18,579.88	2,905.50	22,933.98	1,612.50	0.00	7,970.72	2,608.96	12,192.18
52	0.00	0.00	76.00	0.00	76.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61	490.80	0.00	419.53	85.00	995.33	556.81	0.00	387.28	0.00	944.09
64	0.00	0.00	9,910.55	0.00	9,910.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70	0.00	0.00	8,333.64	0.00	8,333.64	5,949.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,949.40
78	0.00	0.00	343.50	0.00	343.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	87,460.88	7,130.70	221,788.81	44,342.06	360,722.45	103,637.33	8,087.52	173,272.84	43,767.52	328,765.21
	157,559.73	8,120.00	294,420.00	79,335.37	539,435.10	55,511.85	7,450.00	342,721.19	38,876.00	444,559.04
	70,998.85	989.30	72,631.19	34,993.31	178,712.65	(48,125.48)	(637.52)	169,448.35	(4,891.52)	115,793.83
	In 1995, BOA, BLA, and BLS had a combined net loss of 53654.52									

APPENDIX C
Map of West Virginia Showing Locations
of all Licensing Boards

West Virginia

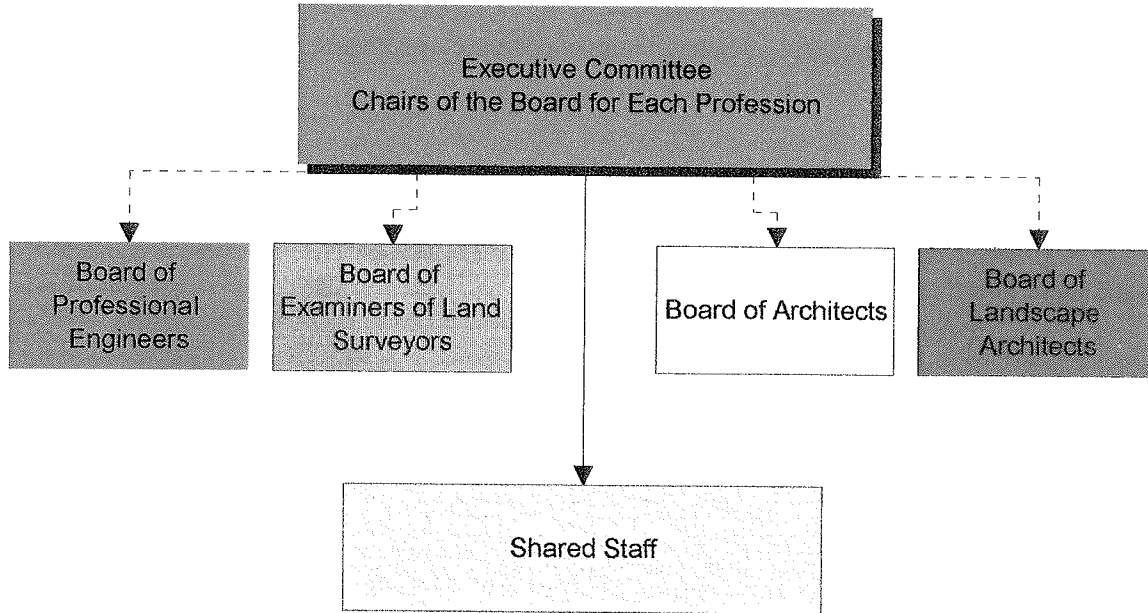


- KANAWHA 22
- BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURIST
- BOARD OF DIETICIANS
- BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
- NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS LICENSING BOARD
- PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS CERTIFICATION BOARD
- RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS
- STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
- STATE BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS
- BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EMBALMERS
- AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS
- BOARD OF MEDICINE
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
- STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
- STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
- STATE BOARD OF SANTARIANS
- STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
- WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
- WEST VIRGINIA REAL ESTATE APPRAISER LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION BOARD
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
- BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
- RALEIGH 2
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
- CABELL 1
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF ARCHITECTS
- PUTNAM 1
- BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS
- HANCOCK 2
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHY
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
- HARRISON 2
- BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
- MARION 1
- STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
- MONONGALIA 1
- STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
- FAYETTE 1
- STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LAND SURVEYORS
- GREENBRIER 1
- STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

APPENDIX D
Proposed Organizational Chart

Proposed Organizational Chart for:

Professional Engineers
Land Surveyors
Architects
Landscape Architects



APPENDIX E
Responses from the Three Board Members
of Land Surveyors

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSE TO
PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF THE

Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors

P. O. Box 925
Fayetteville, WV 25840-0925

Recommendation To Consolidate The Board
Of Examiner's Administrative Functions With
Three Related Boards **IS NOT** In The Best
Interests of West Virginia Landowners or
Land Surveyors. Such Action Will Only Add
Another Bureaucratic Layer of Government
And Decrease The Board's Efficiency In
Serving Landowners and Regulating the
Practice of Land Surveying. The Actual Cost
For A License Renewal For Every WV
Surveyor Is Projected to Increase By 68
Percent Under Consolidation.

Dr. Darrell R. Dean, Jr.
Chair, West Virginia State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors
P. O. Box 6103
Morgantown, WV 26506-6103

304-293-3031 ext. 614
304-293-7109 fax

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General Comments 1
Staffing and Costs 1
Exam Administration 2
License Renewal 2
Complaint Investigation and Enforcement 2
Purpose and Common Characteristics 3
Accountability 3
Public Accessibility 3
Summary 4

GENERAL COMMENTS

This Board Member opposes the recommendation for consolidation of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors' (BELS) administrative functions with other related Boards. This response will rebut the reasons given in the "Performance Review Report" for the consolidation of administrative functions.

Using the comments of administrators from the consolidated boards of selected other states to justify the recommendation for consolidation is biased. The people that should be asked for opinions are the landowners, the board members, and the licensed professionals under their jurisdiction.

Omission. In the "Introduction & Background" section, third paragraph, the fact that the BELS prepares and grades the West Virginia State Exam (WVS) portion of the licensing exam was omitted.

STAFFING AND COSTS

The implementation of a central staff with an administrator or executive director to manage and supervise the central staff, as recommended by the Report, will be a waste of time and efficiency. The BELS secretary-treasure and the other Board members do the job without all the overhead costs that an administrator will require. The time a Board member would spend serving on the Executive Committee to oversee the staff would be time better spent working on complaints or improving the exams. Also, while serving on the Executive Committee, it is not difficult to imagine the battles one would have to fight, in order to garner the resources needed to make BELS function as it now does. Again, this is not the best use of time for the Board Chair.

BELS will function more efficiently if a clerk under its direct control takes notes and provides files and records on an as needed basis during regular meetings and meetings to resolve complaints. With a central staff, BELS would not have the flexibility of the services provided by a dedicated clerk.

It is preposterous to represent to BELS that consolidating the administrative functions of related boards will save costs when you project that the "Average Cost of License" for a combined administrative board is \$67 and the current fee for the renewal of a surveying license is \$40. The \$67 represents a 68 percent increase in the renewal fee for professional surveyors in West Virginia. This is not a cost savings and there is no benefit for the increased cost. Of the selected states surveyed by the Review analyst, the renewal fee for West Virginia land surveyors is less than that of two-thirds of those surveyed. I maintain that BELS is effective and efficient without the added burden of an executive director and central staff.

EXAM ADMINISTRATION

The BELS does not use staff to administer the licensing exams. The Board members are at the exam site to manage and resolve problems if any occur. We don't want unqualified administrators doing our job. Only professional surveyors can properly answer questions that candidates may have about the exams, particularly the WVS. The preparation and grading of the WVS exam are done by Board members. Board members must determine whether candidates are qualified to take the exam and whether they are qualified for licensure. Again, staff or administrators are not qualified to do this job. The clerical processing that is required in conjunction with the examination process is not complicated and can easily be learned by entry level clerks or secretaries. The transferable skill for this task is very minimal.

The idea of having the central staff administer exams for all four boards at one location is unrealistic. An examination site suitable for such a large number of candidates would be very expensive. In the near future new methods of computer testing will be utilized. BELS should not be hindered by a fixed bureaucratic testing process and should have the flexibility to quickly take advantage of innovative testing methods as they become available.

LICENSE RENEWAL

Currently the BELS license renewal process is done by our clerk and a part-time helper. Planning is now underway to completely automate the renewal process with a computerized system. Vendors tell us that such a system is possible. BELS is now preparing the request-for-proposals for the new system. With the new system, the clerk will be able to complete the process without a part-time helper. The computerized system will also be used for other administrative and investigative or enforcement functions. The new system will not only be important to the license renewal process, but to other BELS functions also. It is estimated that approximately 20 new licenses will be issued per year. The new computer system will accommodate this growth for the foreseeable future.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The BELS reviews every complaint that is presented to it. Most complaints are third-party complaints. That is, the person bringing the complaint is not the surveyor's client, but is another person, generally, the client's neighbor. Consequently, many complaints are grounded in a boundary dispute and are not due to the incompetence or negligence of the surveyor. The BELS has no authority to resolve boundary disputes. Another frequent, but informal complaint made by surveyors themselves and not landowners, is that unlicensed individuals are providing surveying services to landowners. The informal complaints of unlicensed surveying are more difficult to resolve. However, recognizing that in order for a survey to be of any value, it must be signed by a licensed surveyor. Therefore, it would seem that a few licensed surveyors are aiding and abetting the practice of surveying without a license. Plans to curtail this practice are underway.

The BELS plan to utilize the computerized record system mentioned under License Renewal, a modified license renewal application form, and a private investigator on a limited basis to improve the complaint resolution and enforcement functions. A full-time investigator is not needed and the overhead associated with one on the central staff would be a waste of resources from the BELS point of view. The bottom line is that if the BELS has the flexibility to apply its resources in the most effective and innovative manner, and not be hampered by the restrictions of a consolidated administrative policy, then the landowners of West Virginia or those using land surveying services are going to be better served.

PURPOSE AND COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

The notion that surveyors "share parts of a larger process in the construction industry," as suggested by the Performance Review Report misses the mark. Many contractors have their own surveying crews for construction layouts; therefore, licensed surveyors are not as closely associated with the construction industry as some of the other boards. Most surveyors serve individual landowners and not large companies or government agencies.

It's true that all of the related boards may have common duties. But having common duties does not imply that there are duplication and inefficiency. As mentioned previously, the BELS functions in an efficient and effective manner under the present organization.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Having consolidated administrative functions with other related boards will not make BELS any more accountable to landowners and surveyors. From my experience, most landowners and surveyors believe that the BELS is accountable and does carry out its functions in a professional manner. However, some individuals will not agree with this assessment. Generally, those individuals, who do not agree, are the ones who confuse surveyor incompetence and negligence with the resolution of a boundary dispute. If the consolidation of administrative functions for related boards would come to pass, due to the loss of ability to manage resources effectively, the BELS would be less accountable to landowners and surveyors.

The BELS will always be accountable to the legislature through the performance review process required by law.

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

I have never heard a complaint about the BELS not being accessible to the public. It is natural for the public to be referred to the BELS by other surveyors and perhaps legislators. These are, no doubt, the folks that landowners first come in contact with and it would be natural for them to be referred to the Board. Because surveyors are unfortunately under represented in the academic world, many landowners probably don't even know there is a registration board for surveyors. I respond to many phone calls from various people inquiring about various aspects of

the BELS functions. Having a central office in Charleston or having a central staff would not significantly increase accessibility. Callers want to talk to Board members not staff.

I believe we can do better in making our telephone number available in phone books. I propose that we place our phone number in every phone book in West Virginia. We will also change how the BELS number is listed so that those calling directory assistance can find us easier. I fail to see how consolidating administrative functions will make us any more accessible. Advertising our office phone number will be more effective in making the BELS accessible than will consolidation of administrative functions.

SUMMARY

Consolidating administrative functions with other related boards will actually increase the cost of license renewal by 68 percent, as projected in the Performance Review Report, for land surveyors. The employment costs associated with a full-time executive director and central staff are out-of-line with the administrative needs of BELS. Also, the consolidation will cause the BELS to be less effective and efficient because it will reduce the ability of the BELS to be innovative and utilize resources where they are most needed. The BELS is planning for a computerized record keeping system that will assist with several Board functions including license renewal and complaint investigations and enforcement. There is always room for improvement in terms of accountability and landowner accessibility. However, accountability and accessibility are being adequately met under the present organization.

Using the comments of administrators from the consolidated boards of selected other states to justify the recommendation for consolidation is biased. The people that should be asked for opinions are the real stake-holders, that is, the landowners, the board members, and the licensed professionals under their jurisdiction.

This writer is opposed to the consolidation of administrative functions of related boards.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LAND SURVEYORS

105 E. Wiseman Avenue
P.O. Box 925
Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840
Telephone (304) 574-2980



CHAIRMAN
Dr. Darrell R. Dean, Jr.
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6101
Morgantown, WV 26505
SECRETARY
Leon K. Spencer
P.O. Box 925
Fayetteville, WV 25840
MEMBER
Gregory A. Smith
P.O. Box 150
Glennville, West Virginia 26351

August 6, 1997

Chris Nuckols, Research Analyst
Performance Evaluation and Research Division
Building 5, Room 751
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Mr. Nuckols:

First of all, let me say I am not opposed to the recommendation of combining the administrative functions of the Board with other Boards if it would benefit the State or related organizations, however at this time I feel that it would cost more than it would save by moving our office to Charleston.

A full-time clerk is needed to assist general public with questions relating to surveying, application information, testing information and other topics related to becoming a licensed land surveyor in the State of West Virginia of which a clerk from other Boards may not be able to answer.

Should our office be located in Charleston a Board Member would have to be there at all times to answer surveying related questions. I feel that it would be more inconvenient than where our office is now. It has been the policy of the Board for the office to be located near the home of the acting Secretary/Treasurer of the Board so that when there are questions to be answered they can be answered in a timely manner. As noted on page 16 of your preliminary performance review the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors was created to serve and protect the public from unqualified individuals practicing land surveying. You state that the Board is meeting these objectives and I feel that there is no reason for us to move our Board at this time.

Our Board has discussed listing our office in several directories throughout the State. However, at this time we find no problem with the general public locating our office by phone, mail

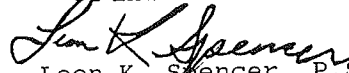
August 6, 1997
Page 2

or in person. At this time we have purchased the necessary equipment for computerizing our license renewals to save time and cost, hereby eliminating the need to raise our license renewal fees in the near future.

I would be happy to meet with the three other Boards concerning consolidating our administrative functions with them.

Sincerely,

West Virginia State Board
of Examiners of Land Surveyors


Leon K. Spencer, P.S.
Secretary/Treasurer

LKS/ajr

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LAND SURVEYORS

105 E. Wiseman Avenue
P.O. Box 925
Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840
Telephone (304) 574-2980

CHAIRMAN
Dr. Darrell R. Dean, Jr.
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6101
Morgantown, WV 26505
SECRETARY
Leon K. Spencer
P.O. Box 925
Fayetteville, WV 25840
MEMBER
Gregory A. Smith
P.O. Box 150
Glenville, West Virginia 26351



August 6, 1997

Chris Nuckols, Research Analyst
Performance Evaluation and Research Division
Building 5, Room 751
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Mr. Nuckols:

It appears from the information/data that was presented to the West Virginia State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors that this would impose an extra cost burden on the Surveyors Board. At present, our office would operate more efficiently as one then being combined with other purposed related Boards.

Better contact with Governing Boards in the State could possibly be better served by mandating that each Board, Organization or Association be listed and maintain a Charleston phone number with an additional listing in the Government blue pages.

I am not opposed to the recommendation of combining the administrative functions of the Board with other Boards if it will benefit the State or related organizations but, at this time I feel that it's not cost efficient.

Sincerely,

West Virginia State Board
of Examiners of Land Surveyors

Gregory A. Smith
Gregory A. Smith, P.S.
Board Member

GAS/ajr

APPENDIX F
Response from the Board of Architects



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF ARCHITECTS
910 4TH AVENUE SUITE 412
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-1434
PHONE (304) 528-5825
FAX (304) 528-5826

August 6, 1997

Harvey Burke
Research Manager
Building 5, Room 751
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305-0592

Dear Harvey:

The West Virginia State Board of Architects is pleased to offer constructive comments concerning the proposed consolidation of Administrative Functions of the West Virginia State Board of Architects with the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, the West Virginia State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors and the West Virginia State Board of Landscape Architects.

We strongly agree with the Legislative Auditor in that the proposal does **not** reflect consolidation of the boards into a single board but merely the consolidation of the **boards administration functions**. Please refer to the attached letter from board member Clint Bryan for his observations and comments on this aspect of the proposal. The board agrees with Mr. Bryan's observations.

The proposal does address several advantages of consolidating the boards and we would like to emphasize the following factors:

1. Continuity of skilled administrative staff in a central location
2. Centralized files and records with security
3. Uniform computer programs for registration and renewals
4. Full time investigator

William E. Yoke, Jr., President
Clarksburg

E. Keith Dean, Secretary
Huntington

Clint Bryan, Member
Charleston

Gary Markham, Lay Member
Charleston

Paul E. Jordan
Sr. Asst. Attorney General
Charleston

E. Ted Boggess, Member
Princeton

C. William Bevins, Member
Charleston

Jan Fox, Lay Member
Charleston

Lexa C. Lewis
Administrative Secretary
Huntington

Legislation was passed in 1995 requiring continuing education for architects prior to renewal of registration. Considerable additional staff time will be required to evaluate the continuing education requirements of the registrants to ascertain if they meet the West Virginia Board of Architects criteria. We believe a central skilled staff can accomplish this function more efficiently.

Effective since January 1997 the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Architectural Examination is taken on computer at testing centers in Charleston and Morgantown. The examination is no longer administered or proctored by the West Virginia State Board of Architects, as indicated on page 17 first paragraph of the report.


While on the surface it would seem that the combined administration of the boards would be cost effective, we do not think that it will necessarily prove to be a reality and reduce the cost of administration and thereby the renewal fee.

According to our information North Carolina is a combined board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors only and does not include Architects and Landscape Architects as implied under average licensing cost on page 18.

Whether or not the legislature enacts the proposal into law you can expect complete cooperation from the West Virginia State Board of Architects.

Sincerely,

WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS


E. Keith Dean
Secretary/Member

EKD/lcl
cc: Board Members

**CLINT BRYAN, AIA
& ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS**

5 August 1997

VIA FACSIMILE

SUITE 1200
ONE VALLEY SQUARE
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25301
304/342-2151 FAX 304/342-2197

E. Keith Dean
West Virginia Board of Architects
910 Fourth Avenue Suite 412
Huntington, WV 25701-1434

Dear Keith:

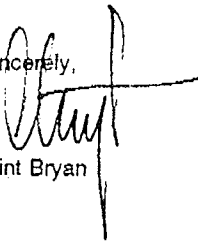
I just reviewed the Legislature's report proposing combining administrative functions of the Land Surveyor's, Architect's, Engineer's, and Landscape Architect's. It is a well prepared report and has merit for combining only administrative functions.

I did have concern in the report where they had interviewed states that also combine the Boards. I would caution that we definitely **do not** want to move in that direction. It appears the comments in the report were discussions with the Board's Executive Secretaries and not with actual Board Members. Through the years, I have spoken with Board Members of various combined Boards and, while administratively it is a compact system, the combining of boards is not looked upon with favor by the actual board members of the various professions. Each board needs to be autonomous to deal directly with their own issues since they individually understand them better than a combined board. Just last year when this subject came up, we spoke specifically with Bob Boyton of the Virginia Board and asked him directly if they had to do it over would their board wish to be independent on their existing board. Without hesitation, he said Virginia would be much better off keeping the boards distinctly separated.

All in all, I think that combining the administration does have merit and I feel their recommended structure of the Chairman of each Board being in charge of and oversight of the administrative staff appropriate.

Sincerely,

Clint Bryan



RECEIVED

AUG 05 1997

EDWARD TUCKER, ARCHITECT

CLINT BRYAN, AIA, ARCHITECT
JOHN HARRIS, AIA, ARCHITECT
DOUG BASTIAN, AIA, ARCHITECT

APPENDIX G
Response from Board of Professional Engineers

Samuel G. Bonasso, P.E.
Morgantown
Dr. Patrick R. Esposito, P.E.
Morgantown
Secretary
H. Ben Faulkner, Jr., P.E.
Princeton
President
Frank L. Gaddy, P.E.
Huntington
Gene R. Weekley, Jr., P.E.
Huntington

STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



Ann Hicks
Charleston
Administrator

608 Union Building
Charleston, WV 25301-2703
TELEPHONE (304) 558-3554

August 13, 1997

Antonio E. Jones, Ph.D.
Performance Evaluation and Research Division
West Virginia Legislature
Building 5, Room 751A
1900 Kanawha Blvd, E.
Charleston, WV 25305-0610

RECEIVED

AUG 13 1997

**RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION DIVISION**

Re: July 31, 1997 Letter on Sunset of Land Surveyors Board

Dear Dr. Jones:

The West Virginia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers studied the report titled *Preliminary Performance Review of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors*, and would like to make the following comments regarding recommendations.

The Engineers' Board has been and remains highly accountable to the general public and to the engineering profession. Combining administrative staffs with other Boards will not increase accountability but would reduce the effectiveness of the Engineers' Board due to the complexity of our profession. While architects and landscape architects deal mostly with the construction industry, the engineers deal not only with construction but with professionals in municipal, utility, and industrial operations and management.

In the case of the Engineers' Board, thirty-eight percent (38%) of its revenue is from fees charged for examinations and administration of examinations. This income is passed through the Board to pay for the non-Board costs. A more equitable evaluation is an analysis of licensure fees charged by the four Boards.

The following table illustrates the results of these fees:

REVENUES FROM LICENSE RENEWAL FEES OF THE FOUR BOARDS		
Professional Engineers	5,251 @ \$35/Year	\$183,785.00
Architects	1,035 @ \$75/Year	\$ 77,625.00
Landscape Architects	109 @ \$50/Year	\$ 5,450.00
Land Surveyors	1,654* @ \$50/Year	\$ 66,160.00
TOTAL REVENUES FROM LICENSE RENEWAL		\$333,020.00

*907 of the 1,654 Licensed Surveyors are Licensed Engineers that contribute \$36,280 or fifty-four percent (54%) of the total Land Surveyors revenues.

Since the operating budget is not direct proportion to the cost of service to each registrant, the numbers on page 18 of the *Preliminary Performance Review of the Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors*, dated August, 1997, (Table Two) gives a distorted view. The Engineers' Board would also like to correct a transfer of values as noted on page 18, Table Two. In that table the "average cost of license" should be \$45 not \$67. The cost per license is calculated by dividing the total operating costs shown on page 16, Table One, by the total number of registrants from that same table. The numbers in the table within this letter based on license renewal fees indicate the Engineers' Board would contribute fifty-five percent (55%) of the direct income to the support of the proposed staff. It is uncomfortable for the Engineers to release control of its staff and administrative policy to an Executive Committee of which the Engineers would only have one in five votes.

Unlike other Boards that have a limited type of registrants, the Engineers' Board has a diversity of registrants ranging from government, industry, private practice, and academia. It also serves a variety of disciplines such as civil, electrical, mechanical, industrial, and mining engineering fields. This diversity creates a need to understand the dynamics of our profession and an experienced staff to serve. What is proposed would make us less responsive to the engineers who provide the financial support for their own self regulation. It is the engineers who are paying the renewal fees and not the public in general.

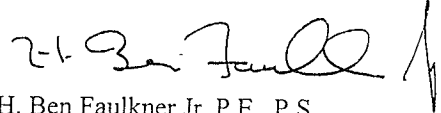
The Engineers' Board commends the Legislative Auditor's efforts to eliminate duplication and reduce costs of operations of the several Boards of State Government. To that end, the Engineers' Board already has staff and offices established in Charleston. The Board is willing to make those facilities available for meetings and headquarters to the other Boards. Also, if desired the Engineers' Board will process licensure applications, renewals and/or clerical and administrative services to the other Boards for a fee to be negotiated that represents actual cost of providing those services.

Antonio E. Jones, Ph.D.
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The Engineers' Board members are available to discuss these matters and arrive at a solution that satisfies both the wishes of the Joint Committee on Government Operations and provides the most feasible solution to the serving of each Boards' registrants and the general public.

Respectfully Submitted,

**West Virginia Board of Registration
for Professional Engineers**



H. Ben Faulkner Jr. P.E., P.S.
President