



WHAT ACEC OF TENNESSEE DOES FOR ITS MEMBERS

ACEC of Tennessee is active at the state level advocating for the interests of engineering firms before the Tennessee General Assembly, the State Board of Architects and Engineers, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Fight legislation that would license interior designers in Tennessee – now only the title “registered interior designer” is protected by law, not the practice of interior design; legislation is being considered by the General Assembly (Spring 2009)
- Stopped legislation permitting the “reuse” of designs and increasing the \$25,000 threshold for public works projects that must be designed by an architect or engineer
- Passed legislation to enable the State Fire Marshal in the Department of Commerce and Insurance to create a dispute resolution process to speed up action on differences between the State Fire Marshal and designers
- Fought efforts to transfer money from the State Highway Fund to the General Fund; supporting legislation to prohibit the transfer of money from the Highway Fund, which is being considered by the General Assembly this session (Spring 2009)
- Stopped efforts to exempt certain signs from the requirement that an engineer or architect must prepare plans and specifications for the signs if they cost \$25,000 or less, have no more than 150 square feet of sign face, and stand no more than 25 feet high; we worked with the sponsors to develop a more reasonable threshold for signs that do not need to be designed by engineers. The amended legislation is moving through the General Assembly now (Spring 2009)
- Successfully fought legislation that would eliminate the need for an engineer to design fire protection systems – worked with the State Board of Architects and Engineers and other interested parties to revise the Standard of Care and develop a workable policy on the design of fire protection systems
- Educated Shelby County Government about the implications of proposed purchasing requirements for consulting services; representatives from ACEC Memphis and ACEC State met with the county for clarification of the new policies and to seek a compromise that would allow professional services firms allowances based on realistic employee demographics
- Supported efforts to update the law on statewide building codes and encouraged adoption of the International family of codes
- Blocked legislation requiring state agencies to use state universities for consulting services
- Blocked legislation to permit use of prototypical drawings for state park facilities
- Blocked legislation that would remove the requirement that an engineer or architect prepare plans for renovation of an existing building, no matter what size
- Blocked efforts to impose a sales tax on engineering services
- Blocked legislation to permit a company to use the word "engineering" in its name, even though it did not employ an engineer
- Supported legislation to permit brownfields redevelopment, which became law

March 2009