



# UPDATE



## A LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FROM THE ACEC/M POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Statute of Limitations Bill Re-introduced as SB 77

April 2011

Although expectations were high for passage of Senate Bill 882 last session, once again the bill died on the House floor. ACEC has wasted no time re-drafting a new bill for this session and Senator Schuitmaker introduced SB 77 on January 27, 2011. The Republican's historically have strongly supported tort reform, so this bill should garner support from both chambers and the Governor. The bill will restore the statute of limitations to 2-years for malpractice claims brought against design professionals. The bill was passed out of the Senate Feb. 24. Passage of this legislation will be a key legislative priority for ACEC and its partners in the 2011-2012 session.



**Governor Rick Snyder** and ACEC/M Executive Director Ron Brenke joke about who are the bigger "nerds", accountants or engineers, during an ACEC co-hosted reception in Detroit.

### New Funding For Brownfields, Grants for Municipalities

A large package of bills passed the legislature pertaining to Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA). The bills amend various sections of NREPA with the goal of increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the cleanup process for environmental contamination.

Two bills in the package deal with funding for strategic water quality initiatives (HB 6416 & SB 1443).

#### HB 6416 (Public Act 232 of 2010) will:

1. Authorize the DNRE to spend up to \$140.0 million for response activities.
2. Authorize the DNRE to spend up to \$10.0 million to provide brownfield redevelopment grants and loans to municipalities and brownfield redevelopment authorities.

#### SB 1443 (Public Act 231 of 2010) will:

1. Provides an additional \$40 million in grants to eligible municipalities to complete loan application requirement.
2. Creates a State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Advisory Committee within the DNRE.
3. Names ACEC as a member of the new Advisory Committee.
4. Requires Advisory Committee to submit a report with recommendations to the DNRE and legislature by August 1, 2011.

ACEC has formed a Task Force to provide input and recommendations to be submitted to the Advisory Committee.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION BILL PASSES

HB 6374 became Public Act 324 of 2010 after it was signed by the Governor in December. The bill cleared the way for the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) to proceed with the administrative rules process to develop



continuing education requirements for licensed engineers, surveyors and architects.

The process to promulgate the rules could take longer than one year to complete.

The renewal period for licensed professionals under Article 20 is 24 months. Once the rules have been approved and

are implemented, licensees will be given ample time to obtain the required professional development hours needed before their next renewal.

ACEC is already providing PDH credits for all of their educational offerings. Enough credits will be offered in any given year to meet the state requirements for renewal of a member's P.E. license.

**Randy Richardville** was elected to the Michigan Senate in November, 2006. Upon re-election in 2010, he was selected as Senate Majority Leader by his fellow Republican caucus members. Senator Richardville also spent 3 terms in the House from 1999 to 2004.



**James "Jase" Bolger** was elected to serve as the Speaker of the House for the 2011-12 session by his fellow caucus members. Representative Bolger is in his second term in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Other Key Appointments:

**Senate**

Transportation Committee Chair  
Sen. Tom Casperson  
Judiciary Committee Chair  
Sen. Rick Jones

**House**

Transportation Committee Chair  
Rep. Paul Opsommer  
Judiciary Committee Chair  
Rep. John Walsh

**AESLC Legislative Day a Huge Success!**

Over 150 professional engineers, architects, and surveyors converged on the State Capitol March 16 for the Annual Legislative Day. Appointments were scheduled with 115 legislators, thanks to the efforts of lobbyist Kelley-Cawthorne.

Attendees spoke to legislators about SB 77, a bill that will return the statute of limitations for engineers, architects and surveyors back to 2 years and put us in line with other states. Transportation funding, fair contracts, remonumentation, and the preservation of the brownfield and historic preservation tax credits were all items of discussion.

Members also heard from speakers throughout the day, including:

**2010 PAC Honor Roll**

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\* met or exceeded 2010 firm goal

**2010 PAC Chair: Mark Smolinski**

Lt. Governor Brian Calley, MDOT Chief Administrative Officer Laura Mester, and House Fiscal Agency Director, Mitch Bean.

The House includes 60+ new legislators and the Senate replaced all but 9 of their members. This made it even more important that members take the time to attend the event and educate new lawmakers on our legislative priorities.

**2011 ACEC National Convention & Legislative Summit**

March 30-April 2, 2011  
Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC