

AMENDING THE CANAL ZONE CODE BY THE ADDITION OF PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, AND THE REGULATION OF THEIR PRACTICE

JUNE 6, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GARMATZ, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 7811]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7811) to amend the Canal Zone Code by the addition of provisions relative to the registration of the practice of architects and professional engineers, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 2, line 9, following the word "that" insert "only".

Page 2, line 16, delete the word "architecture" and in lieu thereof insert the word "architects".

Page 2, line 20, delete "engineering-in-training" and insert in lieu thereof "engineers-in-training".

Amend the title so as to read "A bill to amend the Canal Zone Code by the addition of provisions relative to the registration of architects and professional engineers, and the regulation of their practice."

The purpose of the bill is to provide the necessary machinery for examination, registration, and regulation of the practice of the professions of engineering and architecture. At present all of the States of the United States have such regulation and, in general, one who has been admitted to practice in any State may practice in others without taking additional examinations. At present, there is no comparable provision in the zone with the result that young professional men employed on the zone are unable to acquire a recognized professional status until they return to the United States. Provision for registration in the zone would remove one obstacle to the recruit-

ment of engineering and architectural school graduates for service by the Panama Canal Company. The program would impose no additional costs upon the Company since it is anticipated that examination and registration fees will more than offset the expense of establishing and administering the program.

The amendments to the title add the reference to regulation of the professions while those in the body of the bill correct errors in language.

The Department report is as follows:

CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Washington, D. C., September 21, 1955.

Hon. HERBERT C. BONNER,
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries;
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. BONNER: Reference is made to your request for a report on the bill (H. R. 7811) to amend the Canal Zone Code by the addition of provisions relative the registration of the practice of architects and professional engineers.

This proposed legislation was prepared under the direction of the Governor of the Canal Zone upon the request of the professional engineers and architects in the Canal Zone. The Governor and the Panama Canal Company recommend favorable consideration of the bill as being in the public interest in the Canal Zone and as being advantageous to the Company and the Canal Zone Government in the employment of architects and engineers.

Most jurisdictions of the United States have enacted similar measures with a principal purpose of protecting the public interest by insuring that none but competent architects and engineers shall engage in the private practice of their professions. Although most of the architects and engineers in the Canal Zone are employed by United States Government agencies, the same general purpose served elsewhere would also be served by such legislation in the Canal Zone where, in addition to Government structures, a number of quarters and other buildings are privately owned and constructed, including clubs and churches and other buildings of a public nature used by many Canal Zone residents. The Governor has certain administrative control over construction methods and building design in the case of private structures. This control is similar to that possible under building codes in other jurisdictions, which nevertheless have recognized the need to regulate the practice of architecture and of engineering.

A further substantial and important purpose of the proposed legislation is the protection of the professional status of the architects and engineers in the Canal Zone who are employees of the Panama Canal Company and other Government agencies. Young architects and engineers are reluctant to accept or continue employment where they have no clearly recognized professional status and where experience gained is not likely to be recognized by the various registration boards in the United States and the national councils of architectural and engineering registration boards. The proposed bill would make possible this needed recognition of professional status on a reciprocal basis with other jurisdictions. As a result it is expected that the morale of our architects and engineers would be improved and that the diffi-

culties now experienced by the Panama Canal Company in recruiting and retaining qualified young engineers and architects would be eased. It is contemplated that the regulations authorized by the bill would permit, but not require, architects and engineers employed by Federal agencies to be registered.

The legislative proposal is designed to give the Governor basic authority to promulgate regulations that would provide for an examining board and the issuance of licenses, prescribe detailed standards for determining the qualifications of applicants, and establish administrative procedures. It is contemplated that the regulations which the Governor would issue under the legislation would be patterned very closely after provisions applicable in the District of Columbia on this subject.

It is not expected that the proposed legislation would have any significant fiscal effect on the operations of the Canal Zone Government or the Panama Canal Company.

In line 16 on page 2 of the bill the word "architecture" should be corrected to read "architects." It is also suggested that the title of the bill should be "to amend the Canal Zone Code by the addition of provisions relative to the registration, and the regulation of the practice, of architects and professional engineers."

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

W. M. WHITMAN,
*Assistant to the Governor,
Secretary, Panama Canal Company.*

There are no changes in existing law.



There are two main reasons why the
government should not be allowed to
control the economy. First, it is
impossible for the government to
control the economy without
violating the principles of
liberty and justice under
law. Second, the government
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