

HB 117 -- Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects

Sponsor: Wasson

This bill authorizes the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects to impose civil penalties upon any person practicing these professions without a valid license, subject to an administrative action by the board.

Complaints must be filed with the Administrative Hearing Commission. If the commission finds that an unlicensed person has violated the provisions of the bill, the board may issue a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each day of violation, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000. The person being fined has the right to appeal to a circuit court. Once the case is finalized, the Attorney General will commence an action to recover the penalty, including court costs, attorney fees, and surcharges.

The board is also authorized to assess reasonable costs and expenses incurred in conducting the investigation and administrative hearing and impose a civil penalty against a licensee after the commission has found a cause for discipline.

The bill also allows unlicensed persons to use a form of the word "engineer" without being subject to disciplinary action if the use of the term is reflective of their profession and does not imply that they are a professional engineer.