

**2005**  
**GEORGIA ENGINEERS LEGISLATIVE COALITION**

Georgia Engineering Center  
Equitable Building, Suite 2150  
100 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-521-2324

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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## **Governor Vetoes HB 444 – Four-Year Degree Bill**

Yesterday was the last day for the Governor to veto or sign bills passed by the General Assembly; after that day a bill automatically becomes law. Governor Perdue decided to veto HB 444.

The Governor vetoed 15 bills out of a total of 443 bills and resolutions that were sent to him for review.

The Governor released the following official explanation for this veto:

“HB 444 changes the educational and professional requirements for engineers and land surveyors, essentially phasing-out the acceptability of apprenticeship experience and requiring a bachelor's degree. This legislation would ultimately, unnecessarily and inappropriately shut out many individuals from land surveying and likely result in increased costs to consumers. I believe that the underlying purpose of this bill can be better addressed through considering scope of practice as opposed to educational requirements. Therefore, I VETO HB 444.”

The vote on HB 444 was 46 –1 in the Senate and 147-11 in the House. After passing the House, an amendment was offered in Senate Committee that would have vastly expanded the scope of practice of surveying, in ways that most observers believe constitutes a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. The Senate Committee did not approve the amendment.

It is clear to anybody that the notion that “the underlying purpose of this bill can be better addressed through considering scope of practice as opposed to educational requirements” makes no sense. The amendment offered in the Senate Committee would have vastly expanded the scope of practice of land surveyors, without any accompanying increase in the educational/experience requirement for licensure. With the comment in the veto message about the scope of practice, the veto must relate to the defeat of this amendment.

You may go to [www.legis.state.ga.us](http://www.legis.state.ga.us) to look at specific bills and their status. You can also do word searches. If there are specific bills/issues that should be tracked, please contact the Legislative Coalition.