

Thursday, October 17, 2013

House Bill 4585 – Electronic Seal & Signature

Today at 1:00pm I appeared before the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee, in Lansing, and testified in support of HB 4585 which will change our licensing law, Article 20, and add language that expands the definition of seal and signature to include “Electronic Seal” and “Electronic Signature”. The bill passed unanimously (7-0) out of committee. This bill will now move to the floor for a full Senate vote, I believe within the next few weeks. All expectations are that the Senate will unanimously approve the bill, as did the House also unanimously approved the bill on September 25, 2013. I venture to predict that the governor will sign the bill before the Thanksgiving break and take effect 90 days after enactment.

This bill will allow governmental agencies the **option**, not mandate them to permit/request and receive permit drawings electronically. The state’s Bureau of Construction Codes has received all the necessary hardware and software to begin receiving permit drawings electronically in 2015. They also have begun departmental training for this new procedure. The plan reviews will also be done electronically with comments being forwarded electronically to the licensee for action, in the same manner as you would with hard copies, except all is accomplished over the internet.

Why does this bill benefit you? In the near future you will no longer need to print several sets of construction documents because this can be accomplished electronically. In many cases there are up hundreds of sheets per set that need to be delivered to the government agencies.

I have recently experienced this procedure with a project in Chicago, which has mandated that all drawings for permitting be submitted electronically, no hard copies accepted.

Yes we are assured the software has security to protect your electronic seal and signature. Before the state implements this requirement the Bureau will send advance notices as to required procedures. In the latter part of 2014 the Bureau will be initiating an education program for licensees regarding this new procedure.

A copy of [HB 4585](#) is available on the AIAMI website under the Government Affairs Committee website tab.

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