

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: February 9, 2000

BILL NO. SB-328  
OF

SUBJECT Surveying

William P. O'Connor  
(NAME)

25 W. Main #801  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53703  
(City and Zip Code)

WIS. SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/9/00

BILL NO. SB 328  
OF

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Sen. Robert Welch  
(NAME)

P.O. Box 7882  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison 53707  
(City and Zip Code)

Myself  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

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P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: February 9, 2000

BILL NO. SB 328  
OF

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Robert G. Hostins, Chair  
(NAME) (Public Member)

1400 E. Washington Ave  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison 53703  
(City and Zip Code)

LAND SURVEYOR SECTION - EXAMINING  
(Representing)

BOND OF ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS AND LAND SURVEYORS.  
Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: February 9, 2000

BILL NO. SB 328

OF

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

JAY FERNHOLZ, Chair  
(NAME)

1400 E. Washington Ave  
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON 53703  
(City and Zip Code)

Examining Board of Arch. Techs, Landscape  
(Representing)

Architects, Professional Engineers,  
Speaking in Favor:

Designers and Land Surveyors.  
Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

Registering Against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 02-09-00

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OF SB 328

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Sen. Shibilski

SNIP! (2K)  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or Route Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

Registering Against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/9/00

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OF 328

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

William C. Jung  
(NAME) <sup>LaCrosse</sup> <sub>County</sub> Surveyor

N5416 Abbey Rd.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Onalaska, WI 54650  
(City and Zip Code)

LaCrosse Co. Govt. and  
(Representing)

Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors  
Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

Registering Against:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/9/00

BILL NO. SB 328  
OF

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Francis THOUSAND  
(NAME)

5113 SPANISH AVE  
(Street Address or Route Number)

MADISON WI 53716  
(City and Zip Code)

WI SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
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P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. SB 328  
OF

SUBJECT LICENSE

REQUIREMENTS FOR  
LAND SURVEYOR  
ARDEN SANDSNES  
(NAME)

4705 SHORE ACRES ROAD  
(Street Address or Route Number)

MONONA WI 53716  
(City and Zip Code)

USLS  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: FEB 9, 200

BILL NO. SB 328  
OF

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Bruce D. Bowden  
(NAME)

619 W. McELMAC SR  
(Street Address or Route Number)

DODGEVILLE, WI 53533  
(City and Zip Code)

IOWA COUNTY SURVEYOR  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

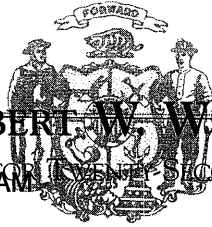
Registering in Favor:   
but not speaking:

Registering Against:   
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882



**Smith, Beth**

**From:** Erickson, Pat

**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2000 11:39 AM

**To:** Smith, Beth

**Subject:** FW: SB 328

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Matthew J Janiak [mailto:mjaniak@discover-net.net]

**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2000 11:44 AM

**To:** Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us

**Cc:** Peter.Andersen@legis.state.wi.us; Pat.Erickson@legis.state.wi.us; Amber.Meyer@legis.state.wi.us; Smith.Beth.Smith@legis.state.wi.us

**Subject:** SB 328

February 7, 2000

Senator Wirch

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707

RE: SB 328 -- REDEFINITION OF LAND SURVEYING

Dear Senator Wirch:

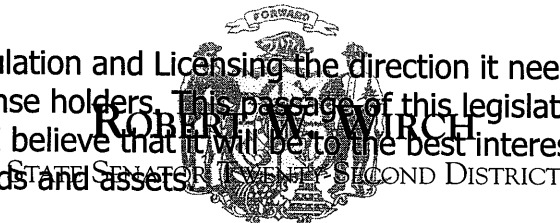
It is my understanding that SB 328 has been referred to the Senate Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations Committee of which you are Chair. I am writing to let you know that I fully support and encourage you to support Senate Bill 328.

This remedial legislation would bring the definition of the practice of professional land surveying in conformance with what is being requested of individuals practicing land surveying in Wisconsin. This legislation will bring the definition of professional land surveying up to date and reflect the needs of society in this technologically aligned environment. A major part of the bill is making the name consistent in all the statutes, and this is not a bill just to effect a name change. The important part of the legislation is the changes to the "definition." The new tasks are being identified as part of the definition because the tasks are being asked of land surveyors now. This definition reflects the increased needs of the public for information.

A definition in the statutes serves several functions. It defines the role of the professional land surveyor in our society. It tells the public whom to contact to get answers concerning those tasks included in the definition. It also gives the

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/sen22.html • Fax: (608) 267-0984  
Home: 3007 Springbrook Road, Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158 • (262) 694-7379

Department of Regulation and Licensing the direction it needs for granting licensing and disciplining license holders. This passage of this legislation in the Senate is important because I believe that it will be to the best interest of the public in protecting their needs and assets.



I would appreciate being kept informed on the status of this important legislation during the remainder of this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Matthew J Janiak, RLS  
President  
Wisconsin County Surveyors Association  
Room 1510  
721 Oxford Avenue  
Eau Claire WI 54703-5481  
715-839-4742 Voice  
715-839-4854 FAX  
[mjaniak@discover-net.net](mailto:mjaniak@discover-net.net)

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Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: [Sen.Wirth@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Sen.Wirth@legis.state.wi.us) • Website: [www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/sen22.html](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/sen22.html) • Fax: (608) 267-0984

Home: 3007 Springbrook Road, Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 53158 • (262) 694-7379



**BOWDEN SURVEYING**

619 W. MERRIMAC ST.  
DODGEVILLE, WI 53533

**BRUCE D. BOWDEN**

February 9, 2000

Senator Robert W. Wirch  
Senate Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations Committee  
Room 300 Southeast  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI. 53701

Re: Senate Bill 328

Dear Senator Wirch:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Bruce D. Bowden and I am the Iowa County Surveyor. I have been involved in surveying for thirty-one years, twenty-five as a Registered Wisconsin Land Surveyor.

In that time I have seen two technological revolutions, not including hand held laser ranging devices that can give sub-meter accuracy, good on the golf course but not close enough for a property description in the State of Wisconsin. The first was electronic distance measuring equipment. These increased the accuracies on surveys at the section and township levels. Before the advent of these devices, the economics of defining a system was prohibitive. Now the global positioning system allows the same type of accuracy and repeatability on everything up to and including the whole world. I guess that's why they called it global.

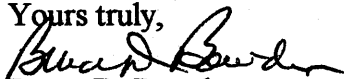
But, surveyors don't just measure. As surveyors, we understand that this is a dynamic world, not a static one, so all measurements are flawed to some degree. Surveyors analyze these measurements to eliminate as much of the ambiguity as possible. They apply these measurements to legal principles and standards to arrive at a conclusion. This not only protects their clients rights but also those of their neighbors and possibly others up to a mile away. Surveyors search out the history of the properties they deal with to be able to "follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before". There is an accepted order of importance of conflicting elements that has been established by case laws that have been followed and upheld since long before our country was in existence. The recorded dimensions of the property lines fall about in the middle of those elements. So extremely precise measurement of the dimension does not always afford the best answer to a surveying problem. The right answer is a culmination of researching the history, investigating the physical evidence, evaluating the adjacent descriptions, realizing the credibility of previous surveys, and adding experience and judgement to make the proper decision. Remember, the survey is the first court through which a boundary dispute must pass, everything else is just an appeal. We have to make our decisions to withstand that process.

My concern is the technological advancements have given non-surveyors a false sense of security. If they can measure it that good, why pay someone else to do it? A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Professional Land Surveyors are trained to check and recheck the instruments, measurements and processes they use but we are still human and do make mistakes. Just imagine the problems created by someone who believes that the hand held G.P.S. receiver he just unwrapped can never give him the wrong answer or that the computer program he just bought will tell him exactly where his property lines are located.

If we allow the technology to outrace the definition of surveying, we will jeopardize one of the basic elements of our economic and social structure, private ownership of land. We will have people creating gaps and overlaps in our property lines. Fences, houses, roads and anything else will be built on the wrong land. Taxes will not be assessed on some lands, others will be listed twice or more. Real surveyors will have a lot more to do and the prices will be much higher. Banks will start to require more of people to prove they actually own the property that is being mortgaged. The courts will see a tremendous increase in litigation over property disputes. In the end legislation will have to be passed to alleviate the problems that can be averted if we are proactive.

Since the time that legislation for the certification of registered land surveyors was first written, surveyor's have been asked to perform new tasks that were not even in existence at that time. Condominiums, large scale mapping, GIS, G.P.S., platting statutes, zoning issues (on many government levels), and annexations are some of the land use issues that are being addressed by this bill. This bill will bring the definition of land surveying up to date. Much time and effort has been expended to bring a reasonable bill before this committee. Even though technological advances may make it necessary to revisit this in the future, this bill will more closely reflect the needs of our society in this technologically oriented profession. Please see fit to send it along on its path to becoming the law.

Yours truly,



Bruce D. Bowden

cc: Senator Dale W. Schultz