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STATUTE OF REPOSE RECEIVES FINAL PASSAGE

The Alabama House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 59 late Thursday afternoon and sent it to the Governor's office. When signed by the Governor, the length of repose that a licensed Architect, Engineer or General Contractor is responsible for will change from thirteen to seven years.

This was AGC's top legislative goal for the 2011 session. The coalition that worked for the passage of this measure was made up of the Alabama Institute of Architects, the American Council of Engineering Companies and various Construction Associations and was led by AGC.

The current Statute was passed in 1994 and set a 13 year statute of repose and a 2 year statute of limitation for a total of 15 years that a contractor was responsible for anything he built. The new law will cut that 15 year period to 9 (7 and 2). The old 15 year period was one of the longest in the nation and by far the longest in the southeast. The new standard will put Alabama in line with other states in our region.

Passing any bill in the Alabama Legislature is a difficult task. There are way too many people who worked for the success of this project to list here. But I would be remiss if I did not thank all of you who spoke to, text, emailed and called their Senators and Representatives and urged them to support this legislation. Also, a big thank you goes to our sponsors, Senator Cam Ward and Representative Greg Canfield. Both of these legislators made your bill their top priority and worked tirelessly for its passage.

There are only four legislative days left in the 2011 session. Those days will be long and difficult as there are hundreds of bills waiting to be acted upon. Had we not gotten the vote on our bill yesterday our task would have been much harder. For that we are indebted to the leadership, Speaker Mike Hubbard and the President Pro Tem Del Marsh for their help and leadership. Both were committed to your legislation from day one.

Finally, we will keep you posted on a signing date.

Until next time.

Chris Williams
Director, Governmental Relations

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