

## Public Works Projects

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Engineers are licensed in Tennessee and across the country to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Whether a public project is large or small or costs more or less than a specific dollar amount is not at issue - **protection of the public is our primary concern**. Building codes, ADA and environmental requirements, sustainability, and protection of the taxpayer investment in public projects should also be major considerations.

ACEC of TN and TSPE are opposed to increasing the threshold for public works projects from \$25,000 to \$250,000 and “reusing” designs. Who will be making design decisions if no engineer or architect is involved in project development? Will those decision makers accept the liability for problems that may result from the design?

If designs may be “reused,” as proposed by this legislation, serious issues are raised regarding liability and changes in building and life safety codes. Is local government willing to assume the liability for any plans “reused” from another site? This practice would also assume that no new techniques or materials can improve the design.

One of Tennessee’s unique characteristics is its landscape and it would be dangerous to assume that one building design would be appropriate for every site condition or for varying seismic conditions. Allowing the “reuse” of architectural or engineering designs also infringes on federal copyright laws and violates the state architects’ and engineers’ practice law.

Approved by the ACEC of TN and TSPE Boards  
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