

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 779  
 Economic Matters

(Delegate Love)

Education, Health, and Environmental  
 Affairs

**Architects - Continuing Education**

This bill establishes a continuing education requirement for the renewal or reinstatement of an architect’s license.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures would increase by \$15,500 in FY 2004. Out-year expenditures reflect ongoing operational costs that are annualized and adjusted for inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	15,500	6,200	4,300	4,400	4,500
Net Effect	(\$15,500)	(\$6,200)	(\$4,300)	(\$4,400)	(\$4,500)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** This bill requires a licensed architect seeking renewal or reinstatement of a license to complete 12 hours of continuing education credits per year, including 8 hours that relate to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. If the American Institute of Architects (AIA) or the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) approve the credits, then the State Board of Architects shall approve the

course. After the original license has been renewed once, a licensee seeking renewal or reinstatement must submit, with an application and appropriate fee(s), an original certificate of completion verifying the continuing education requirement has been met.

The continuing education work must: (1) have a clear purpose to maintain, improve, or expand relevant skills and knowledge; (2) be presented in a well-organized and sequential manner; (3) provide evidence of preplanning which must include the opportunity for input by the group to be served; (4) be conducted by persons who are well-qualified based on education or experience; and (5) provide for documentation of an individual's participation.

For a course or activity that is not approved by AIA or NCARB, a licensee must submit to the board, at least 30 calendar days prior to commencement of the course or activity, detailed information about the proposed coursework. A sponsor of a course or activity that is preapproved by the board may make the claim that the course or activity has been preapproved and may indicate the number of continuing education contact hours a participant may be credited for successful completion. The board shall provide a space on the regular license renewal form for a licensee to sign as certification that the licensee has complied with the continuing education requirement.

The board may conduct random audits to verify completion of the continuing education requirement. The licensee must retain evidence of compliance with the continuing education requirements for a period of two years. If, upon audit, the board disallows any contact hours, the licensee shall have a period of six months in which to produce evidence of compliance or to acquire the required contact hours; however, the board may waive these requirements if the licensee shows good cause.

The bill also authorizes the board to waive continuing education requirements for the next licensing term for temporary active military duty, illness or physical disability, or for other extenuating circumstances. The board may also accept a similar program of continuing education required for licensees by another state, province, or district as fulfillment of requirements described in this bill.

**Current Law:** To practice architecture means to provide any service or creative work in regard to an addition to, alteration of, or construction of a building or an integral part of a building that requires education, training, and experience in architecture. The practice of architecture includes: (1) architectural design and preparation of related documents; (2) consultation; (3) design coordination; (4) evaluation; (5) investigation; and (6) planning.

To become a licensed architect, an individual must be of good character and reputation, have an appropriate degree or practical experience and training (as determined by the board), pass a board-approved test, and pay a fee not to exceed \$60. Each two-year term,

a licensee must submit an application for renewal and pay a fee not to exceed \$70. There is no statutory requirement for continuing education in order to renew or reinstate an architect's license.

**State Fiscal Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$15,500 in fiscal 2004 to update electronic renewal software (\$10,000), to print new informational materials (\$2,000), for a consultant to review course materials (\$2,500), and for communications (\$1,000). Out-years include \$3,000 a year for an hourly consultant and \$1,000 for printing and postage updates.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** In 2002, HB 64, a similar bill, was not reported out by Economic Matters. Also in 2002, SB 148, a similar bill, passed the Senate.

**Cross File:** SB 614 (Senator Stone) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2003  
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