

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 88 (Senator Conway, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Architects - Architecture Licensing Exam - Time Requirements

This bill provides that time requirements for taking the qualifying exams required for licensure by the State Board of Architects cannot begin until completion of an internship or training program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: As this bill codifies current practice, it would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual practicing architecture in Maryland is required to hold a license from the State Board of Architects. To qualify, an individual must hold a degree from an accredited school of architecture and have practical work experience in the field. An applicant is also required to pass an examination determined by the board. The Architect Registration Examination administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has been designated as the required examination for licensure.

Background: NCARB is a national organization that develops and recommends standards for the practice of architecture. Its members include architectural registration boards in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. NCARB has prepared a

standard test – the Architect Registration Examination – that has been adopted by all American and Canadian member boards as a requirement for professional registration. The examination consists of nine professional divisions, each of which is administered separately. An applicant must pass all divisions to be eligible for certification; there is a mandatory six-month waiting period to retake a failed division of the examination.

In 2004, NCARB passed a “rolling clock” provision, effective January 1, 2006, that requires candidates for council certification to pass all nine divisions of the Architect Registration Examination within five years. An applicant’s five-year testing period begins on the date the first of nine divisions is administered.

Maryland regulations require a candidate for licensure to complete an Intern-Architect Development Program before sitting for any part of the Architect Registration Examination. This required work experience generally lasts for a period of three to four years. Eligibility to sit for the Architect Registration Examination is determined by the State Board of Architects following completion of the internship program. Maryland regulations also incorporate the NCARB five-year testing period.

For purposes of State licensure, the bill would prohibit the five-year limit for completing the required examination from applying until after a candidate’s required internship is complete. This provision would not have an immediate effect, as applicants for State licensure are not currently permitted to sit for the exam concurrent with their work experience.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Office of Administrative Hearings; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; National Council of Architectural Registration Boards; Department of Legislative Services

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