

HOUSE BILL 1087

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By: **Delegates Williams, Arian, Charles, Ivey, C. Jackson, Shetty, and Washington**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2020
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business Occupations and Professions – Architects – Scope of Licensure**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for the
4 alteration of a certain existing building or structure for which a person is not
5 required to employ a licensed architect under certain circumstances; making a
6 conforming change; and generally relating to the scope of licensure for architects.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
9 Section 3–101(a), (b), and (l) and 3–103(a) and (e)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
14 Section 3–103(d)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

20 3–101.

21 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) “Architect” means an individual who practices architecture.

23 (l) (1) “Practice architecture” means to provide any service or creative work:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) in regard to an addition to, alteration of, or construction of a
2 building or an integral part of a building; and

3 (ii) that requires education, training, and experience in architecture.

4 (2) "Practice architecture" includes:

5 (i) architectural design and preparation of related documents;

6 (ii) consultation;

7 (iii) design coordination;

8 (iv) evaluation;

9 (v) investigation; and

10 (vi) planning.

11 3-103.

12 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all architectural documents
13 prepared in connection with the addition, alteration, construction, or design of a building,
14 an integral part of a building, or a group of buildings which are intended for public use or
15 residential use shall be signed, sealed, and dated by a licensed architect in accordance with
16 § 3-501 of this title.

17 (d) (1) A person may not be required to employ a licensed architect in
18 connection with the alteration or repair of an existing building or structure in a municipal
19 corporation if the alteration or repair:

20 (i) does not exceed [~~\$5,000~~] **\$50,000** in estimated costs, including
21 labor and materials;

22 (ii) is limited to:

23 1. interior alterations or repairs;

24 2. storefronts or facades;

25 3. fixtures, cabinetwork or furniture; or

26 4. exterior stairways, landings, decks, and ramps; and

27 (iii) does not adversely affect the structural system of the building,
28 including foundations, footings, walls, floors, roofs, bearing partitions, beams, columns,

1 joists, or the mechanical, electrical, or plumbing systems.

2 (2) Any work performed under this subsection shall be in compliance with
3 the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Maryland Building Performance Standards set
4 forth in Title 12, Subtitle 5 of the Public Safety Article.

5 (3) The exclusion provided for in this subsection shall be used only once per
6 building or structure in a 12-month period.

7 (4) A building permit issued under this subsection:

8 (i) shall contain an affidavit signed by the person who has
9 submitted the permit stating that the repair or alteration is in compliance with this
10 subsection; and

11 (ii) may not be amended or revised in any way to cause the alteration
12 or repair to exceed [~~\$5,000~~] **\$50,000** in total costs, including labor and materials.

13 (5) Any building permit issued under this subsection that contains
14 technical submissions that fail to conform to the requirements of this subsection shall be
15 invalid.

16 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, a code official
17 may require that architectural documents for alterations or repairs of existing buildings or
18 structures be signed and sealed by a licensed architect if the code official determines that
19 the signature and seal of a licensed architect is necessary to provide conformity with the
20 Maryland Building Performance Standards or to otherwise provide for the health and
21 safety of the public.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2020.