

Chapter 245

(Senate Bill 653)

AN ACT concerning

**State Board of Architects – Grounds for Discipline – ~~Requirements and~~
Anonymous Complaints**

FOR the purpose of requiring instead of authorizing the State Board of Architects to deny, reprimand, or suspend a license to practice architecture or a permit to operate a business through which an individual may practice architecture under certain circumstances; providing that the Board may deny, reprimand, or suspend a certain license or permit if a certain individual fraudulently misrepresents that the individual holds a certain license or permit; requiring the Board to notify certain county code officials if a license is suspended or revoked; authorizing the Board to establish an electronic portal to allow the anonymous reporting of a suspected violation of certain provisions of law relating to the practicing of architecture; requiring a code official to verify a licensee's credentials; and generally relating to the State Board of Architects.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
 Section 3–208.1
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions
 Section 3–311
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 3–502
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Local Government
 Section 13–908
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

3–208.1.

(a) In this section, “code official” means a public official responsible for the review of building permit documents or the issuance of building permits.

(b) The Board shall:

(1) keep a list of the names and mailing addresses of all licensees;

(2) provide each code official with a copy of the list annually; and

(3) provide any other person who makes a request with a copy of the list at a reasonable fee set by the Board.

(c) (1) The Board shall provide all licensees and code officials with a periodic newsletter not less than semiannually on the activities of the Board.

(2) The Board shall publish, on the Department website, the newsletter jointly with the State Board for Professional Engineers, the State Board of Certified Interior Designers, the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects, and the State Board for Professional Land Surveyors.

(d) The Board shall distribute:

(1) to each applicant for a license and each code official, a copy of the Maryland Architects Act and the Board’s rules and regulations;

(2) on each renewal of a license, to each licensee, a copy of any amendments to the Maryland Architects Act and the Board’s rules and regulations that took effect during the 2–year period ending on the date of renewal; and

(3) to each code official, a copy of any amendments to the Maryland Architects Act and the Board’s rules and regulations.

(e) A licensee shall designate the licensee’s mailing address at the time of issuance of the license and on each renewal of the license.

3–311.

(a) (1) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 3–313 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its authorized membership, [may] **SHALL** deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if:

(i) the applicant or licensee fraudulently or deceptively obtains or renews or attempts to obtain or renew a license or permit for the applicant or licensee or for another;

(ii) the applicant or licensee fraudulently or deceptively uses a license, **OR MISREPRESENTS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HOLDS A LICENSE OR A PERMIT**;

(iii) the applicant or licensee is guilty of any fraud, gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct while practicing architecture;

(iv) the applicant or licensee violates any regulation adopted by the Board;

(v) the applicant or licensee violates any provision of this title;

(vi) the applicant or licensee aids or abets an unauthorized person to practice architecture;

(vii) under the laws of the United States or of any state, the applicant or licensee is convicted of:

1. a felony; or

2. a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to practice architecture; or

(viii) the applicant or licensee has had a license to practice architecture in another state revoked or suspended for grounds that would justify revocation or suspension of a license under this title, except for failure to pay a license fee.

(2) (i) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding the licensee or suspending or revoking a license under this subsection, the Board may impose a penalty not exceeding \$5,000 for each violation.

(ii) To determine the amount of the penalty imposed under this subsection, the Board shall consider:

1. the seriousness of the violation;

2. the harm caused by the violation;

3. the good faith of the licensee; and

4. any history of previous violations by the licensee.

(3) The Board shall pay any penalty collected under this subsection into the General Fund of the State.

(b) The Board shall consider the following facts in the granting, denial, renewal, suspension, or revocation of a license or the reprimand of a licensee when an applicant or licensee is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor described in subsection (a)(1)(vii) of this section:

- (1) the nature of the crime;
- (2) the relationship of the crime to the activities authorized by the license;
- (3) with respect to a felony, the relevance of the conviction to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or licensee to practice architecture;
- (4) the length of time since the conviction; and
- (5) the behavior and activities of the applicant or licensee before and after the conviction.

(C) IF THE BOARD SUSPENDS OR REVOKES A LICENSE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY EACH COUNTY'S CODE OFFICIAL OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-208.1 OF THIS TITLE.

3-502.

THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH AN ELECTRONIC PORTAL TO ALLOW THE ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING OF A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF § 3-601, § 3-602, § 3-603, OR § 3-604 OF THIS TITLE.

Article – Local Government

13-908.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES.

~~WHEN REVIEWING AND APPROVING ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLIANCE WITH A BUILDING CODE ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A CODE OFFICIAL SHALL VERIFY THAT THE SEAL AND LICENSE OF THE ARCHITECT MATCH THE PERSON WHO FILES THE DOCUMENTS WITH THE CODE OFFICIAL~~ **A CODE OFFICIAL THAT REVIEWS ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH A BUILDING CODE ADOPTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL**

VERIFY WITH THE ARCHITECT WHO SIGNED THE DOCUMENTS THE SEAL AND LICENSE OF THE ARCHITECT BEFORE A PERMIT IS PROCESSED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.