

# SENATE BILL 653

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CF 6lr2198

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By: **Senator Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Architects – Grounds for Discipline – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring instead of authorizing the State Board of Architects to deny,  
4 reprimand, or suspend a license to practice architecture or a permit to operate a  
5 business through which an individual may practice architecture under certain  
6 circumstances; providing that the Board may deny, reprimand, or suspend a certain  
7 license or permit if a certain individual fraudulently misrepresents that the  
8 individual holds a certain license or permit; requiring the Board to notify certain  
9 county code officials if a license is suspended or revoked; requiring a code official to  
10 verify a licensee’s credentials; and generally relating to the State Board of Architects.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
13 Section 3–208.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
18 Section 3–311  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Local Government  
23 Section 13–908  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

2   3–208.1.

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

5           (b)     The Board shall:

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

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

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

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

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

16          (d)     The Board shall distribute:

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

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

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

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

26   3–311.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 1. a felony; or

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

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

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

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

26 1. the seriousness of the violation;

27 2. the harm caused by the violation;

28 3. the good faith of the licensee; and

29 4. any history of previous violations by the licensee.

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

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

5 (1) the nature of the crime;

6 (2) the relationship of the crime to the activities authorized by the license;

7 (3) with respect to a felony, the relevance of the conviction to the fitness  
8 and qualification of the applicant or licensee to practice architecture;

9 (4) the length of time since the conviction; and

10 (5) the behavior and activities of the applicant or licensee before and after  
11 the conviction.

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

16 **Article – Local Government**

17 **13-908.**

18 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES.

19 (B) WHEN REVIEWING AND APPROVING ARCHITECTURAL DOCUMENTS FOR  
20 THE PURPOSE OF COMPLIANCE WITH A BUILDING CODE ADOPTED UNDER THIS  
21 SUBTITLE, A CODE OFFICIAL SHALL VERIFY THAT THE SEAL AND LICENSE OF THE  
22 ARCHITECT MATCH THE PERSON WHO FILES THE DOCUMENTS WITH THE CODE  
23 OFFICIAL.

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