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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Good Afternoon, Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams and I am testifying in favor of HB 1087 – Scope of Licensure.

Under the current law, if I want to make a modification or alteration to my outside deck, redo the cabinets in my kitchen or any other modification that costs me more than \$5,000.00 then I have to hire an architect for at least \$10,000.00 to review and sign off on my plans before I can obtain a building permit. This requirement is burdensome for individual homeowners and small businesses.

In addition to serving as a Delegate, I am a real estate attorney and I deal with engineers and builders all the time. For a large project, it absolutely makes sense to require the homeowner, business or builder to have an architect review the plans before obtaining a building permit. While I understand the intent of the statute, the practical result is that many people are simply not obtaining building permits for small jobs because they cannot afford the cost to hire an architect to review the plans. I think we want to make the requirement to obtain an architect comparable to the cost of the project.

I want to thank my constituent Jeff Lemieux for bringing this issue to my attention. Jeff and his wife own a beloved bicycle shop in College Park and he will talk about his story that their small business faced.

I am asking for a favorable report for House Bill 1087. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I will now refer to Mr. Lemieux.

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams