



15 January 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chair of the Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for HB 0294
Business Occupations and Professions - Architects - Scope of Licensure

Dear Chairman Davis:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we ask for your support of HB 0294 which modifies regulations that define the scope or circumstances for which a person(s) or entity must employ a licensed architect. Upon due consideration, substantive engaged discussion, and collaborative agreement between AIA Maryland and the bill's Sponsor, Delegate Williams, DLLR, and affected constituents, AIA Maryland agrees and supports an increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000, the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for minor alterations and limited scope or circumstances, as defined under HB 0294; or up to \$10,000, the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for alterations and repairs on specific systemic scope or circumstances, as defined under HB0294.

Originally, AIA Maryland had reservations that, if the initial legislation that was presented in 2020 was adopted, harm might come to the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of our communities. The proposed legislation as defined under HB 0294 remedies those concerns by reasonably limiting the threshold amounts, clearly stating the acceptable types of scope that would be permitted without the engagement of a licensed professional Architect but maintains the assurance of full compliance with the Maryland Rehabilitation Code, and all other current building, life safety and accessibility codes and regulations.

AIA Maryland recognizes that the original limit of \$5000 was codified roughly three decades ago. Adjusting for inflation and in consideration of the health, safety and welfare of Maryland's citizens, we believe the limits as defined under HB 0294 are reasonable. AIA Maryland is also pleased that the bill maintains the clause that a Code Official, or a designated Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), may require such alterations or repairs to be documented and sealed by a licensed Architect, and that such a requirement would take precedence over the bill's provisions.

Architects care deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment, particularly, those buildings and environments that require continued alterations, rehabilitation, and maintenance. AIA Maryland also cares deeply about the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents. We therefore respectfully ask your committee to vote in favor of HB 0294.

Sincerely

Daniel L. Bailey, AIA
Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Economic Matters Committee:
Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
Ned Carey
Seth A. Howard
Lily Qi
Kriselda Valderrama
Christopher T. Adams
Lorig Charkoudian
Rick Impallaria
Pam Queen
Jay Walker
Steven J. Arentz
Brian M. Crosby
Carl Jackson
Mike Rogers
Courtney Watson
Talmadge Branch
Diana M. Fennell
Johnny Mautz
Veronica Turner
C. T. Wilson
Benjamin Brooks
Mark N. Fisher
Jesse T. Pippy

AIA Maryland Board of Directors

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Maryland
86 Maryland Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

T (410) 263 0916

www.aiaMaryland.org