



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 19, 2021

Committee: House Economic Matters

Bill: HB 294 – Business Occupations and Professions – Architects – Scope of Licensure

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 294. This bill increases from \$5,000 to \$50,000 the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for the alteration of an existing building or structure for which a person is not required to employ a licensed architect.

Municipalities often contract for small projects such as renovation of a structure in a park or in a municipally-owned building. The requirement to hire a licensed architect for a small project with a cost that does not exceed \$5,000 captures many projects that are considered to be small projects that should not need the oversight of a licensed architect. In some cases, the cost of the architect can exceed the cost of the project, resulting in unnecessary project expenses. Raising the threshold to projects over \$50,000 would capture those larger projects that should have the review of a licensed architect, but leave the smaller projects out of this requirement, saving a city or town considerable extra expense on a small project.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 294 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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