

# CEM DESIGN

520 Anderson Ave. Rockville, MD 20850 301- 294 - 0682

February 24, 2026

Written Testimony

Senate Bill 653 (SB0653) State Board of Architects - Grounds for Discipline – Requirements

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair and Members of the Committee,

A few years ago I received a call from a structural engineer friend of mine, asking if I designed a new store in a local shopping mall. I replied that I had not recently. He proceeded to tell me that he received a call from a county code official about a retaining wall project bearing his signature and professional engineer's seal, that had been submitted for a building permit. The structural engineer told the code official that he did not design the retaining wall. The plans had been submitted by a building contractor who apparently copied the professional credentials and affixed them to his own drawings. The code official ran a check of all of the permit applications submitted by this contractor. He found plans for a residence which had been submitted using the engineer's signature and seal, and designs for a store submitted using my signature and seal. I never would have known that my professional credentials were being fraudulently used but for the coincidence that the code official called a friend of mine.

This is a public safety issue because buildings are built without proper design and engineering, and I incur liability because my signature and seal are affixed to a set of plans. I contacted the Maryland Board of Architects and my State Senator to report the problem. I found that there is currently no way to track the use of professional credentials and no penalty if someone is caught fraudulently doing so.

This Bill changes that. It establishes a simple requirement that the code official has to verify that the plans submitted for permit were, in fact, created by the professional who signed and sealed them. It also establishes penalties for the fraudulent use of professional credentials.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Moloney', written in a cursive style.

Craig Moloney, AIA, LEED AP  
CEM Design