



AIA Washington Council

A Council of The American Institute of Architects
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Issue Brief

Other Priority Issues for 2007

Professional Licensing Laws

The legislature is considering several bills impacting licensing:

- **Support Substitute SB 5746 — Landscape Architect Practice Act**
This bill updates the current LA licensing bill to a full practice act.
- **Support Substitute SB 5984 — Structural Engineer Practice Act**
This bill states that only in order for an engineer to practice structural engineering, he or she would have to be specifically licensed as a structural engineer.
- **Support Substitute SB 5788 with changes — Home Inspector Practice Act**
This bill would require home inspectors to be licensed. The AIA/WA supports the bill, but would like a provision to exempt architects and engineers. Architects and engineers are already regulated by licensing boards. Giving another board authority over the practices of architects and engineers will fragment the regulation of the professions and confuse consumers as to which board to contact regarding information about services provided by these professionals.
- **Substitute HB 1843, Substitute SB 5045, Substitute SB 5735SB — Contractor Licensing**
In general the AIA/WA supports efforts to improve the regulation of contractors and promote greater professionalism, such as contractor licensing. The contractor community is taking a lead on these bills. The AIA/WA does not have a position on the details of the bills, but would like to see improvements made to the contractor registration statutes.

Amend HB 1395 / Substitute Senate Bill 5550 — Home Warranty Legislation

These bills seek to improve the quality of home construction by requiring new warranties for different building components ranging from 2 to 10 years. While the AIA/WA supports improving the quality of home construction, these bills go too far and would result in higher home costs and increased litigation. Each bill includes a section to create a legislative study committee on the design and construction of residences. The bills should be amended to retain the study and delete the other policy changes. The study group should be given an opportunity to work before making major changes in the laws.

Support Second Substitute HB 1506 — Alternative Public Works Law

SSHB 1506 reauthorizes Washington's alternative public works laws (design-build and general contractor/construction manager). The law is set to expire July 1, 2007. For the last 18 months the AIA/WA has been an active participant in the Capitol Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB). CPARB worked with all stakeholders and developed revisions to the law. Key revisions include expanding the authority for more public agencies to use alternative public works procurement methods. The bill also creates the Project Review Committee, to review and approve the use of these methods. Finally, the bill improves data tracking and project oversight.

Support HB 2041 — Clarifying goals and responsibilities of WSDOT.

HB 2041 creates new policy goals for the Washington State Department of Transportation. It would create five policy goals for WSDOT including: preservation, safety, mobility, environment and stewardship. In addition, it would clarify that to achieve these goals WSDOT should utilize design excellence, context sensitive design and evaluate projects for their impacts on carbon emissions. It is time to modernize WSDOT's goals to reflect the need to use multi-modal solutions that fit within the context of the communities.

Support Substitute HB 1558 — Growth Management Act Task Force

The AIA/WA strongly supports the goals of the Growth Management Act. However, the GMA is showing its age. It is being used in some parts of the state to prevent development of any kind. It has also increased the costs to local governments and the private sector for development. It is clear that parts of the GMA are not working well. It is time to conduct a comprehensive analysis on the GMA

SHB 1558 establishes a legislative task force to study the effectiveness of the GMA in meeting its goals and requirements. The task force will report its findings by December 1, 2007.