



MODERNIZATION OF ARCHITECTURE LAWS

PLEASE SUPPORT SHB 1634 & SSB 5529

KEY POINTS

- *This bill is substantially similar to bills introduced and passed out of committee in 2008.*
- *Modern architecture now requires more education and training licensing standards need to be updated.*
- *Corporate registration is confusing and exempt some architecture businesses from having to register.*
- *Current exemption language can cause misinterpretation to the detriment of the public.*
- *Revenue would increase enough to cover the limited costs of rulemaking and normal program oversight.*

Background

Washington ensures that the practice of architecture is done by licensed individuals and businesses in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Our law establishes rigorous qualification standards to become licensed and requires businesses which provide architecture services to register with the state.

However, the architecture licensing law hasn't changed since 1985. New technologies and modern practice methods, such as sustainability, have significantly modernized the practice of architecture in the last two decades.

Updating Qualifications Standards

In the last two decades buildings and technology have become more complex. The changes being proposed for licensure recognize that modern architecture now requires more education and training. Basic requirements to pass the national examination and complete a structured internship program should be maintained; but updated education and training standards for those without an accredited degree is needed.

In addition to continuing professional development requirements for continuing licensure; this bill establishes a three tier system for persons to qualify to take the national examination.

Streamlining Corporate Registration

The current statutes on corporate registration are confusing and exempt some architecture businesses from having to register with the licensing board. The new standard would require that any business offering architecture services in Washington State must register with the board, identify licensed architects and their roles in the business.

Cleaning Up the Exemptions

Exemptions in the licensing law need clarification. Current language can cause misinterpretation to the detriment of the public, such as:

- The licensing law seems to allow people to practice architecture without a license, provided an engineer reviews and stamps drawings.
- Language also seems to indicate that the architecture licensing board has authority to regulate engineering. Engineers are independently licensed and authorized to provide services under law. It is inappropriate for the architecture law to appear to regulate them.
- Exemptions for housing and small construction projects are confusing.
- There are duplicative exemptions that have caused confusion with building officials and regulators.

This bill will clarify all of these opportunities for misunderstandings.

**PLEASE SUPPORT SHB 1634 & SSB 5529,
TO MODERNIZE THE ARCHITECTURE
LICENSING LAW!**

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