



## SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE ARCHITECT PRACTICE ACT (RCW 18.08)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Explanation of Changes</u>
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Authorization to Practice Architecture - RCW 18.08.310</b>
Sec 1(2)	Clarifies when non-resident architects and architecture firms may “offer” to practice architecture in Washington State.
Sec 1(3)	Allows the use of the term “intern architect” for persons in a structured intern training program.
<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Definitions - RCW 18.08.320</b>
Sec 2(1)	Adds a definition of “Accredited Architectural Degree.”
Sec 2(11)	Adds “Predesign services” to the definition of the “practice of architecture.”
Sec 2(12)	Add a definition of “Prototypical documents.”
Sec 2(15)	Clarifies the definition of “Review.”
Sec 2(16)	Adds a definition of “Registered professional design firm.”
Sec 2(17)	Adds a definition of “Managers.”
<b>Section 3</b>	<b>Establishment of the Licensing Board - RCW 18.08.330</b>
Sec 3	Removes outdated provisions and cleans up the language
<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Executive Director - RCW 18.08.340</b>
Sec 4	Changes the term “executive secretary” to “executive director.”
<b>Section 5</b>	<b>Architectural Degree Requirements - RCW 18.08.350</b>
Sec 5(3)(a)	Technical change to clarify the intent of the statute.
Sec 4(3)(c)	Revises the path to licensure for those with only a high school degree. Requires 15 years of architectural training, 8 years of which must be under a registered architect, including completion of a structured intern training program.
<b>Section 6</b>	<b>Examination Requirements - RCW 18.08.360</b>
Sec 6(3)	Modifies the 5-year requirement for passing the exam from a single 5-year period to a rolling 5 year period starting with the earliest passed section of the exam. If the entire exam is not passed within a single 5 year period, applicants must retake any sections passed more than 5 years prior to the current date. Aligns the provision with national standards.
Sec 6(4)	Creates a new provision allowing applicants to begin taking the examination immediately following graduation from an accredited architecture program.
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>Seal and Sign Provisions - RCW 18.08.370</b>
Sec 7(1)	Technical edits to the statute

American Institute of  
Architects  
Washington Council  
724 Columbia St., Suite 120  
Olympia, WA 98501

Phone: 360-943-6012  
Toll Free: 800-722-0394  
Fax: 360-352-1870

**Stan Bowman -**  
**Exec. Director**  
E-mail: [bowman@aiawa.org](mailto:bowman@aiawa.org)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Explanation of Changes</u>
<b>Section 7</b>	<b><i>Seal and Sign Provisions - RCW 18.08.370</i></b>
Sec 7(2)	Clarifies the requirements for sealing and signing documents.
Sec 7(3)	Defines the conditions for when an architect may seal and sign technical submissions. Clarifies the statute for how “prototypical drawings” are treated. Ensures the architect sealing and signing documents retains full responsibility.
<b>Section 8</b>	<b><i>Exemptions - RCW 18.08.410</i></b>
Sec 8(1)	Technical edits to reference appropriate RCWs for the terms used in the section, remove redundant terms and links the exemption to public health and safety.
Sec 8(2)	Clarifies this exemption so that it applies to employees working for an architect. It removes references to employees working for other professionals as these are more appropriately dealt with in each profession’s licensing statute.
Sec 8(3, 4)	Technical edits to reference appropriate RCWs for the terms.
Sec 8(5)	Clarifies that the exemption applies to residential and related buildings of any size.
Sec 8(6)	Clarifies that the total building size must be 4,000 square feet or less to be exempt from the licensing requirements of the statute. This change aligns with a policy change by the Board for Architects.
Sec 8(7)	Clarifies that a contractor may offer design-build services jointly with an architect, provided the architectural services are performed by a registered architect. <p>Removes the old paragraph (7) for design-build services. The statute does not prohibit design-build and the exemption is not needed. Removing this exemption ensures that buildings not otherwise exempt continue to be designed by a licensed architect.</p> <p>Removes the old paragraph (8) allowing unlicensed persons to provide architectural services prior to filing for a building permit. The original intent of this provision was to allow out of state architects to seek work prior to being licensed, but set a deadline after which they must be licensed. The provision of such services is addressed in Section 1.</p> <p>Removes the old paragraph (9) that appears to authorize engineers to stamp architectural plans. Engineers have independent authority under RCW 18.43 to offer engineering services. Removing this exemption ensures that engineers are regulated solely by the engineering board. Section 7 amends the statute to clarify the sealing and signing requirements for an architect.</p> <p>Adds a provision to clarify the law regarding buildings larger than 4,000 square feet. It allows unlicensed persons to design alterations to up to 4,000 square feet in a building larger than 4,000 sq ft under specific, limited conditions.</p>
<b>Section 9</b>	<b><i>Corporate Practice and Registration - RCW 18.08.420</i></b>
Sec 9	Streamlines the corporate practice and registration requirements and process. In general, it requires that any business offering architectural services to register with the licensing board and identify the licensed architects employed by the business.
Sec 9(1)	Requires all businesses offering architecture services to register with the licensing board. Delineates the specifics of the registration requirements, including corporate officers
Sec 9(2)	Requires the business entity to provide such information as the registration board may require.
Sec 9(3-5)	Technical edits and deletes unnecessary provisions.
<b>Section 10</b>	<b><i>Continuing Professional Development - RCW 18.08.430</i></b>
Sec 10(3)	Establishes the requirements for architects to have continuing professional development (continuing education) for renewal of a license.
<b>Section 11</b>	<b><i>Effective Dates</i></b>
Sec 11(1)	Delays the effective date of the educational requirements for 2 years to allow persons in the process of getting a license to complete that process under the current law.
Sec 11(2)	Delays for one year the effective date of the provisions dealing with: document sealing, exemptions, corporate registration and continuing professional development. This delay allows the licensing board time to draft and enact rules regulating the sections.