

AIA WASHINGTON COUNCIL

ISSUE BRIEF



MODERNIZATION OF ARCHITECTURE LICENSING STANDARDS

PLEASE SUPPORT ESSB 5529/ HB 1634

SPONSORS: SENATOR CURTIS KING AND REP. SCOTT WHITE

Architecture Registration Requirements by State

State	Allow licensing without a Degree?	Minimum Years of Experience with High School Diploma
Alabama	No	--
Alaska	No	--
Arizona	Yes	8
Arkansas	No	--
California	Yes	8
Colorado	Yes	10
Connecticut	No	--
Delaware	No	--
District of Columbia	No	--
Florida	No	--
Georgia	No	--
Hawaii	Yes	11
Idaho	Yes	8
Illinois*	No**	--
Indiana	No	--
Iowa	No	--
Kansas	No	--
Kentucky	No	--
Louisiana	No	--
Maine	No	--
Maryland	Yes	13
Massachusetts	No	--
Michigan	No	--
Minnesota	No	--
Mississippi	No	--
Missouri	No	12, before Jan 1, 2012
Montana	No	--
Nebraska*	No**	--
Nevada	No	--

KEY POINTS

- *Washington is one of only 12 states to have a non-degree option for licensure.*
- *39 states and the District of Columbia do not allow architects to become licensed if they do not have an accredited degree.*
- *Current state law only requires 8 years of experience in order to be eligible to take the licensing exam for those without a degree.*

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Architecture Registration Requirements by State continued

Nevada	No	--
New Hampshire	Yes	13
New Jersey	No	--
New Mexico	No	--
New York	Yes	12
North Carolina	No	--
North Dakota	No	--
Ohio	No	--
Oklahoma	No	--
Oregon	No	--
Pennsylvania	No	--
Rhode Island	No	--
South Carolina	No	--
South Dakota	No	--
Tennessee*	No***	--
Texas	No	--
Utah	No	--
Vermont	Yes	9
Virginia	No	--
Washington	Yes	8
West Virginia	No	--
Wisconsin	Yes	7
Wyoming	No	--
Total No	39	
Total Yes	12	
<i>Average</i>	--	9

*Limited exceptions.

**Illinois: 4-year architecture degree and 8 years experience or 1,170 Training Units.

***Tennessee: 5 years required for non-accredited 4-year architectural degrees deemed substantially equivalent to a NAAB-accredited degree or which are part of a 5-year NAAB-accredited program; 7 years for architectural engineering or architectural engineering technology degrees accredited by ABET.

Broadly Experienced Architect Program

Some states allow reciprocal registration through the NCARB Broadly Experienced Architect Program. If a person does not have an accredited degree, but is licensed to practice architecture in a state, he or she may apply for NCARB certification. The applicant must first have a license in a state. Then the applicant must have completed between 6 and 10 years of “comprehensive practice experience” after licensure.

Thus, it would take applicants between 13 and 23 years to complete the BEA process if one starts upon graduation from high school and happens to live in a state that allows initial licensure without an accredited degree.

The options for comprehensive practice experience ***as a registered architect*** are:

- **Six years** for architects who hold a pre-professional degree in architecture that is a component of an accredited professional degree program
- **Eight years** for architects who hold any other baccalaureate or higher degree
- **Ten years** for architects who do not hold a degree (i.e. only have a high school diploma)