

Issue Brief

American Institute of Architects

January 2024

Retire the Rolling Clock

THE PROBLEM

Washington's rolling clock policy creates an arbitrary barrier for individuals who are qualified to obtain a license and practice architecture.

Removing the rolling clock will eliminate an unnecessary regulation and expand access to opportunity.

THE ASK

Amend Wash. Rev. Code § 18.08.360 and Wash. Admin. Code § 308-12-031 and end the rolling clock.

VOTE YES ON HB 1880 and SB 5794

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

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OVERVIEW

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) recently announced that it will retire its Architectural Registration Exam (ARE) rolling clock policy, effective May 1, 2023. AIA applauds NCARB's announcement, and we are proud of our role in advocating this change.

As of October 2023 however, two states, including Washington state, have rolling clocks in state statutes that need to be amended.

Washington's rolling clock requires an applicant to pass all six divisions of the licensing exam within a five-year period. Extenuating life circumstances - from financial pressures to pay student loans, to family care obligations of many first-generation college graduates, coupled with lived experiences - can lead to the rolling clock becoming a barrier. [NCARB analysis shows a disproportionate effect on women and people from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.](#)

Becoming a licensed architect is a substantial goal for many, requiring dedication, time, and resources. But dedication isn't always enough when work, family, and life come into play. Emerging architecture professionals need flexibility, and Washington needs more licensed architects to advance a healthy, safe, and thriving built environment.

[AIA Washington Council urges you to support ending the rolling clock statute in our state. This simple change will eliminate an unnecessary and arbitrary barrier and expand access to opportunities for women and racial and ethnic minorities.](#)

VOTE YES ON HB 1880 / SB5794

The current rolling clock policy in Washington state is adversely impacting licensure candidates, with almost 100 individuals having lost exam sections. An additional 40 will face the same fate by the end of 2024 if HB 1880 and SB 5794 do not pass this session.

This legislative change is not just a matter of policy; it's a lifeline for those who have dedicated their time, energy, and resources to becoming licensed architects. We cannot afford to let more dedicated professionals lose opportunities because of an unnecessary and arbitrary regulation. Your support this session is crucial in breaking down barriers, providing flexibility, and ensuring a more inclusive path to licensure. The future of our profession and the creation of a diverse, thriving built environment depend on it.

