

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1148

As Passed House:
March 7, 2019

Title: An act relating to architect registration.

Brief Description: Concerning architect registration.

Sponsors: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Business (originally sponsored by Representatives Kirby, Vick and Reeves).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Consumer Protection & Business: 1/22/19, 1/23/19 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/7/19, 97-0.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Permits a person who has an accredited architectural degree to use the title "architectural associate," instead of "intern architect," when enrolled in a structured training program recognized by the State Board for Architects and working under the direct supervision of an architect.
- Updates the "practice of architecture" to include the rendering of any service(s) or related work requiring architectural education, training or experience.
- Makes changes to the required work experience for both persons with and without an accredited architectural degree.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & BUSINESS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Kirby, Chair; Reeves, Vice Chair; Vick, Ranking Minority Member; Hoff, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Barkis, Blake, Dufault, Ryu, Santos, Stanford, Volz, Walen and Ybarra.

Staff: Robbi Kesler (786-7153).

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Background:

Authorization to Practice.

A person must be registered or authorized to practice as an architect in the State of Washington. The State Board for Architects (Board) is comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor. The Board must include six registered architects and one public member who is not and has never been a registered architect. The "practice of architecture" means the rendering of services in connection with the art and science of building design for construction of any structure or grouping of structures and the use of space within and surrounding the structure or the design for construction of alterations or additions to the structures, including but not specifically limited to schematic designs, design development, preparation of construction contract documents, and administration of the construction contract. A person who has an accredited architectural degree may use the title "intern architect" when enrolled in a structured intern training program recognized by the Board and working under the direct supervision of an architect.

Application Qualifications.

To be registered as an architect, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, of good moral character, and possess one of the following:

- an accredited architectural degree, three years' work experience, and completion of a structured intern program approved by the Board; or
- a high school diploma or equivalent and at least nine years of practical architectural work experience, as determined by the Board, and the completion of a structured intern training program approved by the Board. Prior to enrolling in a structured intern training program the applicant must have at least six years of work experience, of which three must be under the direct supervision of an architect. This work experience may include designing buildings as a principle activity and postsecondary education as determined by the Board.

Examination.

The examination for architect registration is held annually. Applicants who fail to pass any section of the examination are permitted to retake those particular sections. If the entire examination is not successfully completed within five years, a person is required to retake the entire exam. Applicants for registration who have an accredited architectural degree may begin taking the examination upon enrollment in a structured intern training program as approved by the Board. Applicants who do not possess an accredited architectural degree may take the examination only after completing the experience and intern training requirements.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The term "structured intern training program" is changed to "structured training program" throughout the chapter.

Authorization to Practice.

A person who has an accredited architectural degree may use the title "architectural associate," instead of "intern architect," when enrolled in a structured training program recognized by the Board and working under the direct supervision of an architect. The

"practice of architecture" is updated to include the rendering of any service(s) or related work requiring architectural education, training, or experience.

Application Qualifications.

For applicants with an accredited architectural degree, the work requirement of three years in a structured intern training program is replaced with the requirement to complete a structured training program.

The years of required work experience for applicants without an accredited architectural degree is changed from nine to eight and the requirement of six years of work experience prior to enrolling in the structured intern training program is removed.

Examination.

All applicants for registration may begin taking the examination upon enrollment in a structured training program as approved by the Board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) After working with state and national boards we believe this is helpful in order to bring Washington's requirements more in line with the national standards. There are three steps to becoming an architect: education, training, and an examination. This bill removes one year of electives from required experience because these electives do not make sense anymore; they are not meeting the needs of what architects need to know. This is more in line with the national standards. The bill removes the word "intern" from the required title for persons with an architecture degree while working under the supervision of a registered architect and in a structured training program. Instead, "architectural associate" is more appropriate for persons that have graduated and are getting paid. This bill clarifies the definition of "architectural work" to include a more standard description of what architects do. Washington's law that allows for an alternative path is a good thing for the state. The profession and the building industry in general has a good history of apprenticeships and on-the-job training.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Kirby, prime sponsor; Kirsten Smith, American Institute of Architects; and Geoff Anderson, ORB Architects.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.