

HCS HB 481 -- ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER LICENSES

SPONSOR: Coleman (32)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 481.

ARCHITECTS (Sections 327.091 and 327.101, RSMo.)

Current law sets forth the practice of an architect in Missouri as any person who renders or represents himself or herself as willing or able to render service or creative work which requires architectural education, training, and experience.

This bill instead sets forth the practice of architecture as rendering or offering to render services in connection with the design and construction of public and private buildings, structures, shelters, and site improvements which have as their principal purpose human occupancy or habitation. Only a person with the required architectural education, practical training, relevant work experience, and licensure may practice as an architect in Missouri.

Current law allows certain people to perform specified architectural work without a license. The bill allows an exception for people who render architectural services in connection with buildings used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

The bill also removes the exception for people who work on privately-owned commercial buildings that contain less than 10 people, or people who work on privately-owned buildings of less than 2,000 square feet, and instead allows the exception only for people who work on any one building that contains less than 10 people, contains less than 2,000 square feet, and is not part of another building.

Current law requires a person who applies for licensure as an architect to hold a certified Intern Development Program record with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The bill allows a person to apply if he or she holds a certified Architectural Experience Program record.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (Sections 327.191 and 327.241)

Current law allows certain people to perform specified professional engineering work without a license. The bill allows an exception for people who render professional engineering services in connection with buildings used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

The bill also allows an exception for persons who work on a privately-owned:

- (1) Dwelling house;
- (2) Multiple-family dwelling house containing no more than two families;
- (3) Single building that contains less than 10 people, contains less than 2,000 square feet, and is not part of another building; and
- (4) Multiple-family dwelling house containing three or four families, as long as the work does not affect safety features of the building.

The bill clarifies that an applicant for an engineer-intern or a professional engineer can take the engineering exam before having acquired at least four years of satisfactory engineering experience.

The bill removes a provision requiring a professional engineer to be licensed within four years of being eligible for licensure.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (Section 327.612)

The bill removes a provision requiring an applicant as a landscape architect to be 21 years old. The bill allows an applicant as a landscape architect to possess education that equals or exceeds the education received by a graduate of an accredited school in lieu of having a degree from an accredited school. The bill adds a requirement that an applicant pass all sections of the landscape architectural registration examination from the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

This bill is similar to SB 992 and HB 2575 (2020); and provisions contained in HCS SCS SBs 673 & 560 (2020).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill brings the practice of

architecture and the practice of engineering in Missouri in line with the practice in other states and with national standards.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Coleman; Curtis L. Goben, American Institute of Architects of Missouri; American Institute of Architects of Missouri; American Council of Engineering Companies-Missouri; Missouri Society of Professional Engineers; and Missouri Association of Landscape Architects.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the current exceptions for any person who performs work the person's employer are needed. Currently both railroads and hotels utilize those exceptions. This bill would remove those exceptions.

Testifying against the bill were Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association; and Missouri Railroad Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.