

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Architects Board (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the action proposed at a hearing to be held at the office of the California Architects Board, 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834, on April 11, 2011 at 11 a.m. Written comments, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under Contact Person in this Notice, must be received by the Board at its office no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2011 or must be received by the Board at the hearing.

After holding the hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Board makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before the Board adopts the regulations as revised. Please send requests for copies of any modified regulations to the attention of Trish Rodriguez at the address indicated below. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

Authority and Reference: Pursuant to the authority vested by Section 5630 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret or make specific Section 5650 of the Business and Professions Code, the Board is considering changes to Sections 2615 and 2620 of Division 26 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), as follows:

INFORMATIVE DIGEST / POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Business and Professions Code Section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations, in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act that are reasonably necessary in order to carry out the provisions of law relating to the practice of landscape architecture. BPC section 5650 requires an applicant to have six years of training and educational experience in landscape architecture in order to take an examination for a license to practice landscape architecture.

Amend Section 2615 –Form of Examinations

CCR section 2615 requires candidates applying for licensure as a landscape architect to pass the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE) and the California Supplemental Examination subject to specified provisions.

The Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) formed the Education Subcommittee in 2004 in response to the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee's (JLSRC) recommendation to further evaluate California's eligibility requirements and access to landscape architecture

licensure in California. Further, the LATC adopted a new Strategic Plan objective in 2005 to review the existing six-year education and experience requirement for examination, identify eligibility issues and propose solutions. At its January 2010 meeting, the LATC approved the Education Subcommittee's final report, which included recommendations and proposed regulatory changes to allow applicants with specified educational experience to take the LARE before meeting the work experience requirements. The Board approved the Education Subcommittee's final report and recommendations at its March 2010 meeting.

This proposal would modify CCR section 2615 with the following changes: 1) add new language that clarifies the education and work experience requirements to apply for eligibility to take the LARE,; and 2) add new language that allows candidates with specific educational experience defined under CCR 2620 to apply for eligibility to take the multiple-choice sections of the LARE.

Amend Section 2620 – Education and Training Credits:

CCR section 2620 specifies the Board's evaluation criteria of a candidate's training and educational experience.

The LATC's Education Subcommittee also recommended that the Board grant credit for accredited professional architecture degrees and for partial completion of specific educational experience.

This proposal would retain the Board's existing education and training credits and make the following changes: 1) add new language under Section 2620(a) allowing education credit for partial completion of a degree in landscape architecture from an approved school; education credit for partial completion of an extension certificate in landscape architecture from an approved school and a degree from a school with a four-year curriculum; and education credit for an accredited degree in architecture with a four-year curriculum; 2) add new language under Section 2620(b) that defines "partial completion" as specified under subdivisions (a)(7) and (8); 3) add new language under Section 2620(c)(1)(B) allowing candidates with education credit under subsections (a)(7) and (8) to gain one year of training/practice credit under the direct supervision of a landscape architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction; and 4) make additional clarifying edits to the language.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Board has made the following initial determinations:

Local Mandate: None

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Cost/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None

Cost to Any Local Agency or School District for Which Government Code Sections 17500 through 17630 Requires Reimbursement: None

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None

Business Impact: The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination: N/A

Impact on Jobs/New Businesses: The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the creation of jobs or new businesses or the elimination of jobs or existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in the State of California.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Adoption of these regulations will not:

1. create or eliminate jobs within California
2. create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or
3. affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California

Effect on Housing Costs: None

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The Board has determined that the proposed regulation would not affect small businesses. The proposed regulation sets forth, by regulation, the Board's amended eligibility guidelines for the licensing examination.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Board must determine that no reasonable alternative which it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice.

Any interested person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the above determinations at the above-mentioned hearing or during the written comment period.

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION

The Board has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed action and has made available all the information upon which the proposal is based.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained at the hearing or prior to the hearing upon request from the California Architects Board, Landscape Architects Technical Committee at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834, or by telephoning the contact person listed below.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file, which is available for public inspection by contacting the person, named below.

You may obtain a copy of the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared, by making a written request to the contact person named below (or by accessing the Web site listed below).

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Trish Rodriguez
Address: California Architects Board
Landscape Architects Technical Committee
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The backup contact person is:

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Website Access: Materials regarding this proposal can be found at <http://www.latc.ca.gov>.