

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 291

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

ARCHITECTS. Provides relative to the practice of architecture. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:141 through 154, 156, 157, and 158 and to repeal R.S. 37:146.1, relative to architects; to provide for licensing of entities engaged in architecture; to provide for composition of the State Board of Architectural Examiners; to provide for the powers, duties, and functions of the board; to provide for licensing requirements; to provide for initial licenses and qualifications; to provide for issuance of reciprocal licenses; to provide for board approval to revoke, rescind, and suspend licenses; to provide for violations and enforcement of board actions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:141 through 154, 156, 157, and 158 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§141. Policy and definitions

A. ~~In order~~ The legislature finds that the practice of architecture by qualified individuals with professional expertise is necessary to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare; ~~the practice of architecture in this state is reserved to those persons who have the proper qualifications and have~~

1           been registered by the board.

2                   B. The legislature further finds that the practice of architecture by  
3 individuals and firms should be regulated in the public interest.

4                   C. Therefore, it is the legislative intent and the purpose of this Chapter  
5 to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by  
6 regulating the practice of architecture and ensuring that any individual or firm  
7 practicing or offering to practice architecture shall be registered with and  
8 licensed by the board before engaging in the practice. In furtherance of this  
9 purpose, this Chapter creates the State Board of Architectural Examiners  
10 whose members, authority, functions, and procedures shall be established in  
11 accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. This Chapter shall be liberally  
12 construed to carry out these objectives and purposes.

13                   D. As used in this Chapter:

14                   (1) "Applicant" means an individual who seeks a license in accordance  
15 with the process set forth by the board.

16                   (2) "Approved educational program" means an educational program for  
17 architecture that is accepted by the board.

18                   (3) "Approved experience program" means an experience program for  
19 architecture that is accepted by the board.

20                   (4) "Approved examination" means an examination for architecture that  
21 is accepted by the board.

22                   (5) ~~"Architect" means a person who is technically and legally qualified to~~  
23 ~~practice architecture~~ an individual currently licensed by the board who  
24 demonstrates competence to engage in the practice of architecture as provided  
25 in this Chapter.

26                   ~~(2)(6)~~ "Board" means the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

27                   (7) "Competence" means the knowledge, experience, and skill required  
28 by an architect for the practice of architecture in accordance with the accepted  
29 standard of care.

1           **(8) "Firm" means any legally formed business entity registered with the**  
2           **board through which architectural services are provided.**

3           **(9) "Jurisdiction" means any state, commonwealth, the District of**  
4           **Columbia, or other insular territory of the United States.**

5           **(10) "License" means an approval granted by the board to an individual**  
6           **or a firm to engage in the practice of architecture.**

7           **(11) "Licensing authority" means the public board, agency, or body**  
8           **which has been authorized by a jurisdiction's governing authority to grant**  
9           **licenses and regulate the practice of architecture in that jurisdiction.**

10           **(12) "NCARB" means the National Council of Architectural**  
11           **Registration Boards.**

12           **(13) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, joint**  
13           **venture, cooperative, corporation, or other group or combination acting in**  
14           **concert.**

15           ~~(14)~~ **(14)** The "practice of architecture" is the rendering or offering of the  
16           services specified in this Paragraph in connection with the design, construction,  
17           enlargement, or alteration of a building, a group of buildings, or the space within and  
18           surrounding buildings which have human occupancy or habitation as their principal  
19           purpose. Such services shall include the following: planning; providing preliminary  
20           studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical submissions;  
21           administration of construction contracts; and the coordination of any element of  
22           technical submissions prepared by others, including but not limited to engineers and  
23           landscape architects, as appropriate. The practice of architecture shall not include the  
24           practice of engineering as defined in R.S. 37:682; however, a registered architect  
25           may perform such engineering work as is incidental to the practice of architecture.

26           **(15) "Responsible control" means responsibility for exercising the**  
27           **ultimate authority over, and possessing the knowledge and ability to oversee,**  
28           **delegate, and integrate the design and technical decisions related to the**  
29           **preparation of the project's instruments of service and the project's**

1 implementation in conformance with the standard of care.

2 (16) "Technical submissions" means the documents necessary to  
3 demonstrate compliance with applicable regulatory requirements or to  
4 fabricate or construct a project including but not limited to drawings,  
5 specifications, performance criteria, and installation requirements.

6 ~~C.E.~~ The definition of the practice of architecture set forth in Paragraph ~~B(3)~~  
7 ~~(D)(14)~~ of this Section may include, but shall not be construed as precluding  
8 nonlicensed persons from performing the following services: project development,  
9 feasibility studies, planning; energy consumption analysis, and interior design.

10 §142. Board appointed by governor; removal

11 A.(1) The State Board of Architectural Examiners is hereby created within  
12 the office of the governor and shall consist of seven members, five of whom shall be  
13 architects selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection B **of this Section**,  
14 one selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection C **of this Section**, and  
15 one selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection D **of this Section**. All  
16 nominees and appointees shall be domiciled in the state of Louisiana. The five  
17 architect members shall be appointed, one each, from the five districts provided for  
18 in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The governor has the right to remove any or all  
19 members of the board for inefficiency or neglect of duty.

20 (2) The districts shall be composed as follows:

21 (a) District 1: Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard.

22 (b) District 2: Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St.  
23 John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, and Washington.

24 (c) District 3: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville,  
25 Livingston, St. Helena, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, and West  
26 Feliciana.

27 (d) District 4: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron,  
28 Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee,  
29 Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, St. Mary, Vermilion, and Vernon.

1 (e) District 5: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne,  
2 Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison,  
3 Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll,  
4 and Winn.

5 **(3) Changes by the legislature in the composition of any of the districts**  
6 **provided for in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection made after an appointment of**  
7 **a member to the board shall not affect an appointment in any way, and any**  
8 **member lawfully appointed prior to such changes shall be allowed to serve the**  
9 **full term for which the member was appointed.**

10 B.(1) The five architect members shall be and shall remain domiciled in this  
11 state and in the district from which ~~he~~ **the member** is nominated and appointed.  
12 Each shall be a licensed architect and shall have practiced architecture for at least  
13 seven years. Each architect member shall be appointed by the governor from a list  
14 of ~~three~~ **no more than five** nominees elected from each of the five districts. **An**  
15 **eligible architect desiring nomination shall write a letter to the board so stating.**  
16 **If letters from five or fewer eligible architects are received, no election shall be**  
17 **held, and the board shall submit the names of all eligible architects who have**  
18 **sought nomination from the governor for consideration. If letters from more**  
19 **than five eligible architects are received, an election conducted by the board**  
20 **shall be held to determine the five eligible architects to be included on the list**  
21 **of nominees.** The board shall not adopt any rule or regulation which imposes further  
22 eligibility requirements for membership on the board.

23 (2) In order to determine the list of nominees for the architect members, there  
24 shall be a statewide election to elect ~~three~~ **no more than five** nominees from each  
25 district. Any licensed architect who wishes to be a candidate and have his name  
26 placed on the ballot shall send a letter by certified mail to the director of the board  
27 indicating his intent to be a candidate. The letter shall be accompanied by a  
28 curriculum vitae and shall certify that, if elected, the architect will serve.

29 (3) The election for nominees shall be by **either** mail ballot **or online voting**,

1 and only one architect shall be a candidate for nomination from the same  
2 architectural firm, corporation, agency, partnership, or other entity. After the  
3 election, the ~~three~~ **five** candidates from each district who received the highest  
4 numbers of votes shall have their names submitted to the governor as nominees. All  
5 licensed architects residing in this state shall be eligible to vote in the election.

6 (4) The initial and subsequent elections shall be to fill vacancies as they  
7 occur. The elections shall be completed by the board within ninety days of the  
8 effective vacancy.

9 C. The governor shall appoint one member of the board who shall be an  
10 architect who for seven years prior to appointment has been employed full time in  
11 architectural education, or who for seven years prior to appointment, has been an  
12 administrator of building design, construction, or design standards for government  
13 at the local, state, or national level.

14 D. The governor shall appoint one **public** member of the board who shall be  
15 a citizen of the United States who is not actively engaged in or retired from the  
16 professions of architecture, engineering, interior design, or landscape architecture,  
17 or the occupation of a contractor, or the design or construction of buildings.

18 **E. Each board member shall at all times maintain eligibility to serve on**  
19 **the board by avoiding relationships that would interfere with the board's**  
20 **mission of public protection.**

21 **F. No board member shall be an officer or hold any leadership position**  
22 **in this state's professional association or the national professional association**  
23 **serving architects for the term of the board member's appointment to the**  
24 **board.**

25 **G. Any vacancy that occurs in the board membership for any reason,**  
26 **including expiration of a term, removal, resignation, death, disability, or**  
27 **disqualification, shall be filled as prescribed in this Section in a timely manner**  
28 **so that the board may fulfill its duties as charged.**

29 **H. The board may recommend removal of a board member to the**

1 governor upon an affirmative vote of a majority of members otherwise eligible  
 2 to vote upon one or more of the following grounds:

3 (1) The refusal or inability for any reason of a board member to perform  
 4 the duties required of a board member in an efficient, responsible, and  
 5 professional manner.

6 (2) The misuse of a board member's position to obtain, or attempt to  
 7 obtain, any financial or material gain, or any advantage personally or for  
 8 another, through the office.

9 (3) A final adjudication by a recognized body, including any court, that  
 10 there has been a violation of the laws governing the practice of architecture by  
 11 the board member.

12 (4) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor other than a minor traffic  
 13 offense.

14 §143. Term of office

15 A. Each member shall serve six years; or until his successor is duly  
 16 appointed, ~~except the initial educational or regulatory member appointed pursuant~~  
 17 ~~to R.S. 37:142(C) shall serve a term of four years and the initial public member~~  
 18 ~~appointed pursuant to R.S. 37:142(D) shall serve a term of five years~~ **and**  
 19 **confirmed.**

20 B. **In the event of the death or resignation of any board member, the**  
 21 **appointment by the governor of his successor shall be only for the remainder**  
 22 **of the unexpired term.**

23 C. **Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate**  
 24 **for confirmation.**

25 D. The board shall advise the governor of the expiration of the term of the  
 26 board members. All vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed for  
 27 new members in R.S. 37:142.

28 §144. Powers, authority, and domicile of board

29 A. Four members of the board constitute a quorum for the purpose of holding

1 examinations, meetings and hearings, adjudicating, granting certificates, and  
 2 renewing licenses, engaging in rule making, and transacting other business within  
 3 the scope of this Chapter.

4 B. The board shall elect from its members a president, secretary, and  
 5 other officers as it deems appropriate and necessary to conduct its business. The  
 6 president shall preside at all meetings of the board, sign all certificates of  
 7 licensure, and perform those duties customarily associated with the position and  
 8 any other duties assigned from by the board. The president may establish board  
 9 committees as appropriate and necessary for the furtherance of board business  
 10 and may designate or remove board members as committee members.

11 C. The secretary shall be the official custodian of the records of the  
 12 board, sign minutes of the board meetings, sign the president's certificates of  
 13 licensure, and perform the duties of the president when the president is unable  
 14 to do so.

15 D. The board may delegate authority to its executive director as is  
 16 customary and necessary to properly fulfill the board's duties. The executive  
 17 director shall perform such administrative and ministerial duties as the board  
 18 authorizes.

19 E. The certificate of issuance of a license by the board to an individual or  
 20 a firm shall entitle the holder to practice as an architect architecture in Louisiana.

21 C.F. The board shall have the power powers and duties as may be  
 22 necessary to carry out the purposes and enforce any provision of this Chapter  
 23 and any rule promulgated by the board, including granting and renewing  
 24 licenses, regulating individuals and firms engaged in the practice of  
 25 architecture, establishing by rule the requirements and procedures for use of  
 26 the title "Architect Emeritus". The board shall also have the power to adopt and  
 27 amend such rules and regulations as are reasonably necessary for the proper  
 28 performance of its duties, for carrying out the purposes of this Chapter, for  
 29 continuing education, for the regulation of the proceedings before it, and for the

1 regulation of the practice of architecture under the laws of this state.

2 ~~D.G.~~ The procedure for the adoption, amendment, and repeal of any rule or  
3 regulation shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950  
4 et seq., and the rules and regulations which may be adopted by the board shall be  
5 available for public inspection at the office of the State Board of Architectural  
6 Examiners.

7 ~~E.H.~~ The board may employ executive, clerical, ~~or other~~ **and office** assistants  
8 as are necessary, **including an executive director**, for the proper performance of its  
9 work; may make expenditures from its funds for any purpose which is reasonably  
10 necessary for the proper performance of its duties under this Chapter; and may, if  
11 necessary, or upon advice of the attorney general, hire counsel for advice, for the  
12 representation of the board against violators of this Chapter and for the defense of  
13 any action brought against the board or its members or staff.

14 ~~F.I.~~ The domicile of the board shall be Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

15 **J. The board, its members, and its agents shall be immune from personal**  
16 **liability for actions taken in good faith in the discharge of the board's**  
17 **responsibilities. The state shall hold the board, its members, and its agents**  
18 **harmless from all costs, damages, and attorney fees arising from claims and**  
19 **suits against them with respect to matters to which the immunity applies.**

20 ~~G.K.~~(1) The board may allocate up to ten percent of all license renewal and  
21 delinquent fees each fiscal year to a fund to be named the Louisiana Architecture  
22 Education and Research Fund. The purpose of the fund is to better prepare students  
23 for internships and future careers as architects by authorizing the board to make  
24 awards to universities in this state accredited by and in good standing with the  
25 National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

26 (2) The fund shall be used exclusively for one or more of the following in  
27 order to improve architectural education and the licensure of student interns in this  
28 state:

29 (a) Integration of practice and education in the professional NAAB degree

1 curriculum.

2 (b) Implementation of a path to licensure resulting in an architectural license  
3 at the time of graduation from a NAAB-accredited professional degree program.

4 (c) Facilitation of enrollment and completion of training requirements for the  
5 ~~Intern Development Program (IDP)~~ **approved experience program** as administered  
6 by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

7 (d) Assistance of students and interns in preparation for the taking of the  
8 ~~Architectural Registration Exam (ARE)~~ **approved examination**.

9 (e) Methods for raising awareness of the responsibilities of architects and of  
10 the ways that public health, safety, and welfare are impacted by architects.

11 (3) An accredited university architectural program shall submit an annual  
12 proposal and budget, including any information deemed necessary by the board, to  
13 be considered for any award from the board.

14 (4) The board shall submit an annual report to the appropriate legislative  
15 oversight committee regarding its allocation of monies from the fund for the  
16 preceding fiscal year.

17 §145. Architects; requirements for; ~~certificate~~ **license**; continuing education

18 A. No person shall practice architecture in this state or use the title  
19 "architect", or any term derived therefrom, or display or use any title, sign,  
20 advertisement, or other device to indicate that ~~such~~ **the** person practices or offers to  
21 practice architecture, or renders architectural services, or is an architect, unless ~~such~~  
22 **the person shall have** **has registered with and** secured from the board a ~~certificate~~  
23 ~~of registration and~~ license in the manner hereinafter provided, and shall thereafter  
24 comply with the provisions of the laws of the state of Louisiana governing the  
25 registration and licensing of architects **and architectural firms**.

26 B. ~~Persons licensed by the board to practice architecture may, by rule of the~~  
27 ~~board, be required to earn annually up to twelve hours of board-approved continuing~~  
28 ~~education pertaining to building design in connection with public health, safety, or~~  
29 ~~welfare.~~ **The board may, by rule, establish procedures and requirements for**

1 continuing education by an architect to demonstrate continuing competence in  
2 the practice of architecture for the protection of the public. The requirements  
3 shall include a description of acceptable activities and appropriate  
4 documentation required for license renewal.

5 §146. Examination before board; Initial license qualifications

6 A. Unless previously registered and currently licensed on September 1, 1972,  
7 no person shall practice architecture until he has passed an examination approved by  
8 the board.

9 B. For the purpose of qualifying for the examination, the applicant shall  
10 present satisfactory evidence to the board that he:

11 (1) Is of good moral character.

12 (2) Has paid his debt to society if he has ever been convicted of a felony.

13 (3) Holds a professional degree from a school whose curriculum has been  
14 accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

15 (4) Is enrolled in the Intern Development Program administered by the  
16 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

17 C. Any applicant not the holder of a first professional degree from a school  
18 whose curriculum has been accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting  
19 Board may take the examination if he has done all of the following:

20 (1) Has made formal application for examination to the board prior to April  
21 1, 1984; and

22 (2) Has completed all of the education equivalency requirements for  
23 qualifying for the examination as delineated in the National Council of Architectural  
24 Registration Boards' "Circular of Information Number One"; and

25 (3) Has furnished evidence to the board that he has had practical architectural  
26 work experience, requirements for which are delineated by the National Council of  
27 Architectural Registration Boards or the board.

28 D. The board may adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the  
29 Administrative Procedure Act governing the approval, selection, administration,

1 participation, and completion of the examination and the Intern Development  
2 Program:

3 A. To obtain an initial license to practice architecture in Louisiana, an  
4 applicant shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

5 (1) Provide documentation satisfactory to the board that the applicant  
6 has successfully completed all of the following:

7 (a) An approved education program.

8 (b) An approved experience program.

9 (c) An approved examination.

10 (2) Submit to the board a completed application and pay the required  
11 fee.

12 (3) Paid restitution if the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony.

13 B. Any of the following acts may preclude an applicant's eligibility as a  
14 candidate for initial licensure:

15 (1) Conviction by any court for the commission of any felony.

16 (2) Conviction by any court of a misdemeanor involving fraud, deceit, or  
17 misrepresentation.

18 (3) Misstatement or misrepresentation of fact by the applicant in  
19 connection with the applicant's application for registration in this state or  
20 another jurisdiction.

21 (4) Violation of any of the rules of conduct required of applicants or  
22 architects as adopted by the board.

23 (5) Practicing architecture, or holding oneself out as capable of  
24 practicing architecture, in this state in violation of this Chapter.

25 §147. Rules governing examinations Reciprocal license qualifications

26 A. The board will make all necessary rules and regulations governing the  
27 time, place, and method of conducting examinations and the grading of them, and  
28 prescribe the types of examinations to be given. The examination shall consist of  
29 technical and professional subjects that the board may prescribe.

1           ~~B. Copies of board examinations and answers of applicants shall be~~  
2           ~~maintained for one year. The board examinations and the answers of applicants shall~~  
3           ~~be exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Law as provided for in~~  
4           ~~R.S. 44:1 et seq.~~

5           To obtain a reciprocal license to practice architecture in Louisiana, an  
6           applicant shall satisfy both of the following requirements:

7           (1) Provide documentation satisfactory to the board that the applicant  
8           holds both of the following:

9           (a) A current and valid license issued by another jurisdiction or licensing  
10          authority recognized by the board.

11          (b) A current NCARB certificate.

12          (2) Submit to the board a completed application and pay the required  
13          fee.

14          §148. Examinations; persons exempt Firm regulation

15           ~~A. Upon application and the payment of a fee equivalent to that required for~~  
16           ~~written examination and certificate and upon certification issued by the National~~  
17           ~~Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the board may issue a certificate of~~  
18           ~~registration and license to practice the profession of architecture in this state to any~~  
19           ~~person who has passed a standard National Council of Architectural Registration~~  
20           ~~Boards' examination if such examination is equivalent to that prescribed by the~~  
21           ~~board.~~

22           ~~B. The board may review the examination referred to in this section to~~  
23           ~~determine and decide whether the examination is equivalent to that prescribed by the~~  
24           ~~board.~~

25           ~~C. The board may also require that the applicant under this section submit~~  
26           ~~other proper evidence of his ability to engage in the practice of architecture and~~  
27           ~~evidence of his continued honorable professional conduct after passing the~~  
28           ~~examination before the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.~~

29          To offer or perform architectural services as a firm in this state, a legally

1 **formed business entity shall meet the rule requirements adopted by the board.**

2 §149. Fees

3 The applicant shall pay the ~~actual~~ cost of the examination. Upon passing all  
 4 divisions of the examination, a fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed two  
 5 hundred dollars, shall be charged **to an individual domiciled in this state** for  
 6 ~~issuing a~~ **becoming registered and obtaining an initial license to practice**  
 7 **architecture in this state.** A ~~registration~~ fee to be determined by the board, not to  
 8 exceed five hundred dollars, shall be charged to an individual domiciled outside  
 9 Louisiana ~~seeking to be~~ **for becoming** registered **and obtaining an initial or**  
 10 **reciprocal license to practice architecture** in Louisiana. A fee to be determined by  
 11 the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars, shall be charged to any ~~corporation,~~  
 12 ~~professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1086, architectural-~~  
 13 ~~engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or partnership, limited liability~~  
 14 ~~partnership, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, or other~~  
 15 ~~entity seeking to obtain a certificate of authority~~ **firm for becoming registered and**  
 16 **obtaining an initial license** to practice architecture in Louisiana, unless ~~such entity~~  
 17 **the firm** is ~~exempted~~ **exempt** from the fee by the **rules of the** board. The board may  
 18 not increase the fee for ~~issuing a~~ **charged to an individual or firm domiciled in**  
 19 **Louisiana for becoming registered and obtaining an initial or reciprocal** license  
 20 ~~or a certificate of authority~~ by more than thirty dollars during any three-year period,  
 21 and the board may not increase the ~~registration~~ fee charged to an individual **or firm**  
 22 domiciled outside of Louisiana ~~seeking to be~~ **for becoming** registered **and obtaining**  
 23 **an initial or reciprocal license** in Louisiana by more than fifty dollars during any  
 24 three-year period.

25 §150. Renewal of license; renewal fees

26 A. Every licensed architect domiciled in this state who desires to continue his  
 27 license in force shall **submit to the board a completed application and** annually  
 28 pay, during the month of **November or** December, a fee to be determined by the  
 29 board, not to exceed two hundred dollars. Upon **certification of completion of the**

1 continuing education requirement set forth by the board in its rules and  
 2 payment of the renewal fee, the secretary of the board shall issue ~~him~~ the licensee  
 3 a renewal ~~certificate~~ license for the year due. The board may decline to renew a  
 4 license if the architect's continuing education activities do not meet the  
 5 standards set forth in the board's rules.

6 B. Every licensed architect domiciled outside Louisiana who desires to  
 7 continue his license in force in Louisiana shall submit to the board a completed  
 8 application and annually pay, during the month of November or December, a  
 9 renewal ~~registration~~ fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed five hundred  
 10 dollars. Upon certification of completion of the continuing education  
 11 requirements set forth by the board in its rules and payment of the renewal fee,  
 12 the secretary of the board shall issue ~~him~~ the licensee a renewal ~~certificate~~ license  
 13 for the year due. The board may decline to renew a license if the architect's  
 14 continuing education activities do not meet the standards set forth in the  
 15 board's rules.

16 C. ~~The~~ An architect's failure to renew his license ~~in proper time shall~~ by the  
 17 designated renewal date shall result in the expiration of the architect's license.  
 18 This expiration shall not deprive the architect of the right of renewal thereafter. The  
 19 delinquent fee to be paid upon the renewal of a license by an architect domiciled in  
 20 Louisiana at any time after the month of December in the year when such renewal  
 21 fee first became due shall be determined by the board, not to exceed two hundred  
 22 dollars. This delinquent fee shall be in addition to the renewal registration fee set  
 23 forth in Subsection A of this Section.

24 D. The delinquent fee to be paid upon the renewal of a license by an architect  
 25 domiciled outside Louisiana at any time after the month of December in the year  
 26 when such renewal fee first became due shall be determined by the board, not to  
 27 exceed five hundred dollars. This delinquent fee shall be in addition to the renewal  
 28 ~~registration~~ fee set forth in Subsection B of this Section.

29 E. Every ~~corporation~~, professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S.

1 12:1086, architectural-engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or ~~any~~  
 2 ~~partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, association, sole~~  
 3 ~~proprietorship, or other entity seeking to~~ **firm desiring to continue its license in**  
 4 **force in Louisiana shall** renew its ~~certificate of authority~~ **license** in Louisiana ~~shall~~  
 5 **and**, unless exempted by the board, annually pay a renewal fee to be determined by  
 6 the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars, during the month of **May or** June.  
 7 The board shall issue a renewal ~~certificate of authority~~ **license** for the year upon  
 8 receipt of the **completed renewal application and** renewal fee payment.

9 F.(1) The ~~delinquency~~ **delinquent** fee to be paid by any ~~corporation,~~  
 10 professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1086, any architectural-  
 11 engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or ~~any partnership, limited~~  
 12 ~~liability partnership, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, or~~  
 13 ~~other entity~~ **firm**, when the renewal fee set forth in Subsection E of this Section is  
 14 paid at any time after June in the year the fee first became due, shall be determined  
 15 by the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars.

16 (2) The payment of any ~~delinquency~~ **delinquent** fee shall be paid in addition  
 17 to the annual renewal fee **set forth in Subsection E of this Section.**

18 G. The board may not increase the renewal fees or the ~~delinquency~~  
 19 **delinquent** fees set forth in this Section by more than thirty dollars during any three-  
 20 year period.

21 §151. Roster of architects to be published annually

22 The board shall ~~publish annually a roster of registered architects with their~~  
 23 ~~addresses. This published roster shall be received as evidence in court that the names~~  
 24 ~~it contains are duly registered architects of this state as of a specific date on the roster~~  
 25 **maintain on its website a public, searchable roster for verification of licensure,**  
 26 **which shall contain the name, license number, license status, initial licensure**  
 27 **date, current expiration date, and work address of each licensee.**

28 §152. Use of title "architect"; seal or stamp **architect seal**

29 A.(1) The name of the architect followed by the title "architect" shall appear

1 ~~on every publication, announcement, and letterhead used by a person practicing~~  
 2 ~~architecture in connection with his practice.~~

3 (2) Every registered architect shall have a seal ~~or stamp~~. This shall contain  
 4 ~~his name, the words "Registered Architect, State of Louisiana," and the architect's~~  
 5 ~~license number~~ **an image authorized by the board**. All contract drawings and  
 6 specifications issued by the architect for use in this state shall be ~~stamped or sealed~~.  
 7 The removal of an architect's seal ~~or stamp~~, ~~and/or~~ use of an architect's plans, or  
 8 **both**, unless otherwise provided by law or by written approval of the architect, shall  
 9 be a violation of this Chapter and shall be subject to the penalties delineated in R.S.  
 10 37:154(B) **and (D)**.

11 B. Except in the cases contemplated by R.S. 38:2317, no architect shall affix  
 12 his seal ~~or stamp~~ or permit it to be affixed to any specification, drawing, or other  
 13 related document which was not prepared either by ~~him~~ **the architect** or under ~~his~~  
 14 **the architect's** responsible ~~supervision~~ **control**. In those cases contemplated by R.S.  
 15 38:2317, the design professional reviewing state-owned plans, designs,  
 16 specifications, or other construction documents shall remove the ~~stamp or seal~~ of the  
 17 original architect and shall affix his ~~stamp or seal~~ to those documents that ~~he~~ **the**  
 18 **professional** has reviewed and approved for reuse. The design professional affixing  
 19 his ~~stamp or seal~~ to documents approved for reuse shall assume all responsibilities  
 20 for the documents which bear ~~his stamp or~~ **the professional's** seal. No architect shall  
 21 use his seal ~~or stamp~~ or do any other act as an architect unless ~~he~~ **the architect** is at  
 22 the time duly registered **and licensed**.

23 §153. Board; disciplinary actions; revocation; **rescission**; suspension; probation;  
 24 reprimand; admonishment; fine

25 A. The board may participate in a proceeding to revoke, rescind, or suspend  
 26 the ~~certificate of~~, **registration or license, or both**, place on probation, reprimand,  
 27 admonish, or fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, any  
 28 **individual or firm** registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee** found by the board to  
 29 have committed any of the following acts:

1 (1) Engaging in any fraud, deceit, ~~gross incompetence, dishonesty,~~  
2 ~~misrepresentation, misconduct, or gross negligence in the practice of architecture~~  
3 **material misstatement, perjury, or giving any false or forged evidence in**  
4 **applying for a license, taking an examination, or in applying for any renewal**  
5 **license provided for in this Chapter.**

6 (2) **Engaging in any fraud, deceit, gross incompetence, dishonesty,**  
7 **material misrepresentation, misconduct, or gross negligence in the practice of**  
8 **architecture.**

9 (3) Affixing his **the licensee's** seal, ~~stamp~~, or name to any specification,  
10 drawing or other related document which was not prepared by him **the licensee** or  
11 under his **the licensee's** responsible ~~supervision and control~~, or permitting his **the**  
12 **licensee's** seal, ~~stamp~~, or name to be affixed to any such document.

13 (3)(4) Using his **the licensee's** seal or ~~stamp~~ or engaging in any other act  
14 constituting the practice of architecture **or violating any order or term of**  
15 **probation imposed by the board** at a time when his **the licensee's** certificate of  
16 registration **or license** is **rescinded**, suspended, or revoked, or at a time when his **the**  
17 **registrant's** current renewal has not been obtained in accordance with the law, **or**  
18 **when the license is expired for more than ninety days or in emeritus status.**

19 (4)(5) Conviction of a felony **or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere**  
20 **to a felony charge under the laws of the United States or any state, territory, or**  
21 **district of the United States**, in which case a certified copy of the record of  
22 conviction shall be conclusive evidence of such conviction.

23 (5)(6) Willfully misleading or defrauding any person employing him **the**  
24 **licensee** as an architect.

25 (7) **Knowingly making or signing any false statement, certificate, or**  
26 **affidavit in connection with the practice of architecture.**

27 (6) ~~Violating the provisions of this Chapter or any lawful rule or regulation~~  
28 ~~adopted by the board pursuant to law.~~

29 (7) ~~Practicing any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury in applying~~

1 ~~for a certificate of licensure or registration or in taking any examination or in~~  
2 ~~applying for any renewal certificate provided for in this Chapter.~~

3 (8) ~~Being convicted~~ **Conviction of any civil or criminal violation crime** or  
4 ~~entering~~ **entry of** a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge an  
5 element of which is fraud or which arises out of such individual's practice of  
6 architecture, in which case a certified copy of a record of conviction shall be  
7 conclusive evidence of such conviction.

8 (9) The refusal of the licensing authority of another state, territory, or district  
9 of the United States to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice  
10 architecture, or the revocation or suspension or other restriction imposed on a  
11 license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority, on the grounds other  
12 than non-payment of a registration fee, **or a finding by such licensing authority**  
13 **that a person has engaged in the unlicensed practice of architecture;** provided  
14 that the reason for the action taken by the other licensing authority was recognized  
15 by the Louisiana board as a ground for the disciplinary action taken.

16 (10) Providing false testimony before the board.

17 (11) Failing to provide, within thirty calendar days of ~~mailing the notice~~  
18 **receipt of a request** by certified **or registered** mail, **or personal service,**  
19 information **or documents** requested by the executive director as a result of a formal  
20 ~~complaint to the board~~ **relating to an alleged** ~~alleging~~ a violation of this Chapter.

21 (12) Using any advertising or solicitation which is false or misleading.

22 (13) **Aiding or assisting another person in violating any provision of this**  
23 **Chapter or any rule adopted and promulgated by the board.**

24 (14) **Declaration of insanity or incompetence by a court of competent**  
25 **jurisdiction.**

26 (15) **Presenting or attempting to use as one's own the license, certificate,**  
27 **or seal of another person.**

28 (16) **Falsely impersonating any other licensee or certificate holder of a**  
29 **like or different name.**

1                    (17) Violating or not complying with any order, ruling, or decision of the  
 2                    board.

3                    (18) Violating the provisions of this Chapter or any lawful rule or  
 4                    regulation adopted by the board pursuant to law.

5                    B. Each day that a violation under Subsection A of this Section occurs ~~shall~~  
 6                    may be considered a separate violation.

7                    C. The board may rescind, suspend, refuse to renew, ~~or revoke a certificate~~  
 8                    of the registration or license, or both, place on probation, reprimand, admonish,  
 9                    or fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, any foreign  
 10                    or domestic corporation firm as defined in R.S. 37:141(D)(8) if the firm or if one  
 11                    or more of its officers, directors, employees, agents, or representatives has violated  
 12                    any of the ~~above~~ provisions of this Section.

13                    D. In addition to any other action; the board may assess all reasonable costs  
 14                    incurred in connection with a disciplinary proceeding, including investigator fees,  
 15                    stenographer fees and attorney fees, and court costs as a condition of probation or  
 16                    reinstatement of any ~~certificate or registration~~ or license rescinded, suspended, or  
 17                    revoked pursuant to this Section. The assessment of fees and costs may be  
 18                    considered disciplinary action.

19                    E. ~~The~~ All disciplinary action assessed taken shall be published ~~in the annual~~  
 20                    ~~Roster of Architects~~ on the official website and in the official newsletter of the  
 21                    board and may be released to other professional organizations relating to  
 22                    architecture or to the news media.

23                    F. Proceedings under this Section shall be begun by any person filing a  
 24                    written complaint with the board against the registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ licensee  
 25                    in the form of a sworn affidavit. The board, upon its own motion, may investigate the  
 26                    actions of any registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ licensee and file a complaint against  
 27                    ~~him~~ the licensee or registrant.

28                    G. If in the opinion of the board, a hearing is warranted, a time and place for  
 29                    the hearing of the charges shall be fixed by the board. A copy of the complaint shall

1 be sent by the board **by registered or certified mail, through electronic means, or**  
2 **by personal service** to the registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee** against whom a  
3 complaint has been filed at his last known address ~~by registered or certified mail~~ at  
4 least thirty days prior to the hearing together with a notice of the time and place of  
5 the meeting of the board at which the complaint shall be heard. Notwithstanding the  
6 provisions of this Subsection, the board may summarily suspend a license if it finds  
7 that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and  
8 incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, as authorized by R.S. 49:977.3(C).  
9 Any summary suspension shall be for a maximum period of thirty days.

10 H. At the hearing the registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee** against whom  
11 a complaint has been filed shall have the right to cross-examine witnesses ~~against~~  
12 ~~him~~, to produce witnesses ~~in his defense~~, and to appear personally or by counsel.

13 I. If the accused person or ~~business entity~~ **firm** fails or refuses to appear, the  
14 board may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.

15 J. No disciplinary action shall be taken hereunder unless a quorum of the  
16 board is present at the hearing.

17 K. If the board determines to suspend the ~~certificate of licensure~~ **license** or  
18 registration of any **licensee or** registrant or ~~certificate holder~~, it shall fix the duration  
19 of the period of the suspension. If the board determines to issue a fine against the  
20 registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee**, it shall fix the amount of such fine.

21 L. The executive director of the board shall give written notice of its action  
22 by registered or certified mail, **through electronic means, or by personal service**  
23 to the registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee** against whom the complaint was filed  
24 at his last known address.

25 M. The board may require the production of books, papers, or other  
26 documents and may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify  
27 and to produce any relevant books, papers, or other documents in their possession  
28 before the board in any proceeding concerning any violation. The subpoenas shall  
29 be served by the sheriff of the parish **or private process server** where the witness

1 resides or may be found. If any person refuses to obey any subpoena so issued, or  
 2 refuses to testify or to produce any books, papers, or other documents required to be  
 3 produced, the board may present its petition to the district court of the parish in  
 4 which that person was served with the subpoena setting forth the facts. The court  
 5 shall then issue a rule ~~to that person~~ requiring ~~him~~ **that person** to obey the subpoena  
 6 or show cause why ~~he~~ **that person** fails to obey it. Unless that person shall show  
 7 sufficient cause for failing to obey the subpoena, the court shall direct ~~him~~ **that**  
 8 **person** to obey the subpoena and, upon his refusal to comply, ~~he~~ **that person** shall  
 9 be adjudged in contempt of court and punished therefor, as the court may direct.

10 N. Any registrant or ~~certificate holder~~ **licensee** who has been subjected to  
 11 disciplinary action by the board ~~shall have the right to appeal to the district court of~~  
 12 ~~the parish in which the hearing was held. The appeal shall be governed by the~~  
 13 ~~Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:950 et seq.~~ **may appeal therefrom pursuant**  
 14 **to the Administrative Procedure Act.**

15 O. The board shall have the power to issue a new ~~certificate of~~ registration  
 16 or license, change a revocation to a suspension, ~~or~~ shorten a period of suspension,  
 17 or otherwise amend any disciplinary action taken hereunder upon satisfactory  
 18 evidence that proper reasons for such action exist. Any person whose ~~certificate of~~  
 19 registration or license has been suspended shall have his certificate of registration or  
 20 license automatically reinstated by the board at the end of his period of suspension  
 21 upon payment of the renewal fee. No delinquent fee shall be charged for  
 22 reinstatement of ~~certificate of~~ registration or license under the provisions of this  
 23 Chapter.

24 §154. Violations and penalties

25 A. ~~Any~~ **The board shall have the power to take enforcement action**  
 26 **against any** person, corporation, company, partnership, firm, business entity, or  
 27 individual; **found by the board to be guilty of any of the following acts:**

28 **(1) who shall practice, or offer to practice, Practicing or offering to practice**  
 29 architecture in this state without being ~~certified~~ **registered and licensed** in

1 accordance with the provisions of this Chapter;

2 ~~(2) or any person presenting or attempting~~ **Attempting** to use as his own the  
3 ~~certificate of registration, license, or the seal of another;~~

4 **(3) Engaging in any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, perjury, or**  
5 **giving any false or forged evidence in taking any examination.**

6 ~~(4) or any person who shall give~~ **Giving** any false or forged evidence of any  
7 kind to the board, or to any member thereof, in obtaining a ~~certificate of registration;~~  
8 **or a license.**

9 ~~(5) or any person who shall falsely impersonate~~ **Falsely impersonating** any  
10 ~~other registrant or certificate holder~~ **licensee** of like or different name;

11 ~~(6) or any person who shall attempt~~ **Using or attempting** to use an expired  
12 or revoked ~~certificate of registration;~~ **or license.**

13 **(7) Using or attempting to use a seal which is deceptively similar to any**  
14 **seal authorized by the board for use by a licensee.**

15 **(8) Using the title or the words "architect", "architecture", or**  
16 **"architectural", or any modification or derivative thereof, or displaying or**  
17 **using any title, sign, advertisement, or other device to indicate that the person**  
18 **practices or offers to practice architecture, or renders architectural services,**  
19 **unless the user is duly registered and licensed under this Chapter.**

20 **(9) Falsely claiming that a person is registered or licensed under this**  
21 **Chapter.**

22 **(10) Violating or failing to comply with any order, ruling, or decision of**  
23 **the board.**

24 **(11) Failing to provide, within thirty calendar days of receipt of a request**  
25 **by certified or registered mail or personal service, information or documents**  
26 **requested by the board relating to an alleged violation of this Chapter.**

27 **B.** ~~or any~~ **Any** person, applicant, registrant, or certificate holder who shall  
28 violate any of the provisions of this Chapter; shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. An  
29 individual who violates any part of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be sentenced

1 to pay a fine of not less than three hundred dollars, nor more than ~~fifteen~~ **one**  
2 **thousand five** hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for a period not to exceed three  
3 months, or both. Any person, other than an individual, who violates any provision  
4 of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than  
5 ~~fifteen~~ **one thousand five** hundred dollars, nor more than five thousand dollars. Each  
6 day the violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

7 ~~B.C.~~ It shall be the duty of the attorney general, all district attorneys, and all  
8 duly constituted officers of the law of this state, or any political subdivision thereof,  
9 to enforce the provisions of this Chapter and to prosecute any persons violating the  
10 provisions of this Chapter. The attorney general, or ~~his~~ **the attorney general's**  
11 assistant, shall act as legal advisor to the board if requested by the board and render  
12 such legal assistance as may be deemed necessary by the board in carrying out the  
13 provisions of this Chapter; however, this shall not relieve the local prosecuting  
14 officers of any duty to prosecute a violation of this Chapter.

15 ~~E.D.~~(1)(a) The board shall ensure enforcement of the provisions of this  
16 Chapter. The board may investigate any complaint relating to a violation of this  
17 Chapter and, depending upon the result of its investigation, the board may, after  
18 notice and hearing and by a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to  
19 participate in the proceeding, issue an order prohibiting the person from committing  
20 a violation of this Chapter or fine any such person for any violations of this Chapter,  
21 or both. The fine shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars per violation in  
22 the case of an individual or five thousand dollars per violation in the case of a person  
23 other than an individual.

24 (b) The time and place for said hearing shall be fixed by the board and a copy  
25 of the charges, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing, shall be  
26 personally served; on or mailed by certified mail; to the last known address of such  
27 person at least thirty days before the date fixed for hearing.

28 (c) At the hearing, the accused shall have the right to appear in person, or by  
29 counsel, or both, to ~~cross-examine~~ **cross-examine** witnesses in his or its defense, and

1 to produce evidence and witnesses in his or its defense.

2 (d) If the accused person or business entity fails or refuses to appear, the  
3 board may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.

4 (2) Any person who violates any order of the board issued under this Chapter  
5 shall be subject to a civil penalty not in excess of ~~fifteen~~ **one thousand five** hundred  
6 dollars per violation, in the case of an individual, or five thousand dollars per  
7 violation, in the case of a person other than an individual. If the penalty imposed is  
8 not paid within sixty days after the order becomes final, then the order shall  
9 constitute a judgment and shall be filed and execution issued upon in the same  
10 manner as a judgment of a court of record. Any civil penalty imposed by the board  
11 under this Section may, at its discretion, be suspended in whole or in part.

12 (3) All funds derived from fines as provided in this Subsection shall be  
13 deposited in the state general fund.

14 (4) Any person aggrieved by any action of the board in assessing a fine under  
15 this Subsection may appeal such action pursuant to the Administrative Procedure  
16 Act.

17 ~~D.E.~~ In the alternative, after completion of any investigation by the board  
18 concerning a violation of this Chapter by a nonregistrant, the board may present its  
19 findings to the district attorney in whose district the violation occurred and shall aid  
20 in any criminal prosecution for a violation, or the board may, if it deems necessary,  
21 initiate any civil proceeding for a violation of this Chapter directly and in its own  
22 name in any district court. This action may be instituted by any member, officer,  
23 attorney, or agent of the board.

24 ~~E.F.~~ In addition to any other fine or penalty imposed under this Chapter, the  
25 board may assess all reasonable costs incurred in connection with a disciplinary  
26 proceeding, including investigator fees, stenographer fees, and attorney fees, and  
27 court costs against any person found to have violated any ~~order of the board~~  
28 **provision of this Chapter.**

29 \* \* \*

1 §156. Suits by board; injunction

2 A. The board shall have the right to go into ~~court in the jurisdiction in which~~  
3 ~~the provisions of this Chapter are being violated~~ **a court of competent jurisdiction**  
4 and, upon affidavit or other proof, secure a temporary restraining order, preliminary  
5 injunction, or permanent injunction restraining and prohibiting any violation of this  
6 Chapter and the performance of any work then being done or about to be commenced  
7 in violation of this Chapter.

8 B. Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this Chapter in any  
9 such proceeding shall pay to the board a civil penalty in an amount determined by  
10 the court which may include the board's attorneys fees, costs, investigation, and other  
11 expenses, but in no event shall the fine be less than the sum of one thousand dollars.

12 C. The trial of the proceeding for an injunction shall be summary, with  
13 **preference over ordinary proceedings, and tried by a judge without a jury.**

14 D. A violation of an injunction shall be considered as a contempt of court  
15 **and punished in accordance with law.**

16 §157. Annual report

17 The board shall make an annual report to the governor of its ~~transactions;~~  
18 ~~with any recommendations for the advancement and betterment of the profession~~  
19 **primary activities during the previous calendar year.**

20 §158. Firm practice; licensure; promulgation of rules and regulation

21 A. All domestic firms and foreign firms qualifying to do business in the state  
22 of Louisiana, which practice or offer to practice architecture in the state of Louisiana  
23 are subject to regulation and supervision by the board, and the board, in  
24 implementation of this Section, may issue rules and regulations further governing the  
25 conduct and activities of such firms.

26 B. Within thirty days after the issuance by the secretary of state of a  
27 certificate of incorporation of a Louisiana corporation formed pursuant to the  
28 Louisiana Business Corporation Law, R.S. 12:1-~~101~~ et seq., the Louisiana Nonprofit  
29 Corporation Law, R.S. 12:201 et seq., or the Louisiana Architectural-Engineering

1 Corporation Law, R.S. 12:1171 et seq., or the issuance by the secretary of state of a  
 2 certificate of organization of a Louisiana limited liability company formed pursuant  
 3 to the Louisiana Limited Liability Company Law, R.S. 12:1301 et seq., or the  
 4 qualification of a foreign corporation or foreign limited liability company in the state  
 5 of Louisiana which practices or offers to practice architecture in the state of  
 6 Louisiana, the firm shall file an application for **registration and** licensure with the  
 7 board on a form provided by the board.

8 C. Within sixty days after the firm files with the board the application  
 9 required above, the board, in the event the firm is otherwise in compliance with the  
 10 provisions of this Chapter and the rules and regulations issued by the board  
 11 governing firms, shall issue a license. Any firm having been so licensed by the board  
 12 shall have the authority to contract to ~~deliver such~~ **provide** architectural services **in**  
 13 **Louisiana**, and therefore **it** shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided in this  
 14 Chapter.

15 Section 2. R.S. 37:146.1 is hereby repealed.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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#### DIGEST

SB 291 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law provides for the licensure of architects by the State Board of Architectural Examiners (board). Provides for appointment and membership on the board and for the powers, duties, and functions of the board. Authorizes the board to establish requirements for licenses issued by the board and to impose continuing education requirements.

Proposed law provides for issuance of an initial license to practice architecture in the state and for issuance of reciprocal licenses to practice architecture. Provides qualifications for issuance of initial and reciprocal licenses. Provides for disciplinary actions by the board and authorizes the board to revoke, rescind, or suspend licenses.

Proposed law provides for legislative finding.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and changes the definition of "architect" to mean an individual currently licensed by the board who demonstrates competence to engage in the practice of architecture. Defines "applicant", "approved educational program", "approved experience program", "approved examination", "competence", "firm", "jurisdiction", "license", "licensing authority", "NCARB", "person", "responsible control", and "technical

submissions".

Present law creates the state board within the office of the governor and provides for a seven member board, including five architect members appointed from specified districts and two additional members appointed by the governor. Further provides for the composition of five geographic districts from which architect members are appointed and authorizes the governor to remove board members for inefficiency or neglect of duty.

Proposed law retains present law and member provides that legislative changes to the composition of districts do not affect existing board appointments and allows members lawfully appointed prior to such changes to serve the remainder of their term.

Present law provides that the five architect members shall be and shall remain domiciled in this state and in the district from which the member is nominated and appointed, be a licensed architect, and have practiced architecture for at least seven years. Further provides that each architect member of the board shall be appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees elected from each district.

Proposed law retains present law except changes the number of nominees on the list from three to five.

Proposed law provides that an eligible architect seeking nomination shall submit a letter to the board and, if five or fewer eligible architects apply, no election shall be held and all names shall be submitted to the governor. Further provides that if more than five eligible architects apply, the board shall conduct an election to determine nominees.

Present law provides for the nomination process, including submission of names to the governor, procedures for elections when more than the specified number of candidates apply, and eligibility requirements for candidates and voters.

Proposed law retains present law and requires board members to maintain eligibility and avoid relationships that interfere with the board's mission of public protection. Prohibits board members from holding leadership positions in state or national professional architectural associations during their term. Further authorizes the board to recommend removal of a member to the governor for specified causes, including failure to perform duties, misuse of position for personal gain, violations of architectural laws, or criminal conviction.

Present law provides that members of the board serve six-year terms, except for the initial educational or regulator member and public member, who shall serve four- and five-year terms respectively. Further requires the board to notify the governor of term expirations and provides that vacancies are filled in the same manner as original appointments.

Proposed law retains present law as it relates to board members serve six-year terms, except requires that successors be appointed and confirmed. Provides that vacancies due to death or resignation are filled for the remainder of the unexpired term and requires all gubernatorial appointments to be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

Present law provides for the power and authority of the board, including quorum requirements, authority to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, and authority to regulate the practice of architecture. Further authorizes the board to employ staff, expend funds, and as necessary, obtain legal counsel. Provides that Baton Rouge shall be the domicile of the board.

Present law authorizes the creation of the Louisiana Architecture Education and Research Fund.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides for board governance and operations,

including election and duties of officers, committee authority, delegation to an executive director, clarification of the board's licensing and regulatory powers, and immunity and indemnification for the board, its members, and agents for actions taken in good faith.

Present law prohibits any person from practicing architecture or using the title "architect" in the state without obtaining a certificate of registration and license from the board and complying with applicable laws. Further authorizes the board to require up to twelve hours of annual continuing education related to public health, safety, and welfare.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the board to establish by rule procedures and requirements for continuing education, including acceptable activities and documentation necessary for license renewal.

Present law requires applicants to pass an examination approved by the board to practice architecture, unless previously licensed. Provides for qualification requirements for examination, including good moral character, satisfaction of felony obligations, an accredited degree, and enrollment in the Intern Development Program, with limited alternative pathways for certain applicants. Further authorizes the board to adopt rules governing the examination and intern development program.

Proposed law retains present law except revises initial licensure requirements to require completion of approved education and experience programs, approved examinations, submission of an application and fee, and to provide grounds that may preclude eligibility for licensure, including certain criminal convictions, misrepresentation, rule violations, and unauthorized practice.

Present law authorizes the board to issue a license to an applicant who has passed the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) examination, upon application, payment of fees, and certification by NCARB, if the examination is deemed equivalent to that required by the board. Further authorizes the board to evaluate equivalency and require additional evidence of the applicant's qualifications and continued professional conduct.

Proposed law provides that a firm shall be a legally formed business entity and comply with board adopted rules in order to offer or perform architectural services in this state.

Present law provides for fees related to examination, licensure, out-of-state registration, and certificates of authority for firms and limits the amount and frequency of fee increases by the board.

Proposed law retains present law except distinguishes the fee provisions between in-state and out-of-state applicants, applies fees to both individuals and firms for initial or reciprocal licensure, and maintains limitation of fee increases.

Present law requires annual renewal of licenses and certificates of authority, establishes renewal and delinquent fees, and allows renewal after delinquency.

Proposed law retains present law except requires submission of a renewal application, with the completion of continuing education, authorizes the board to deny renewal for noncompliance with continuing education requirements, provides for license expiration if not timely renewed, and clarifies renewal and delinquent fee provisions for architects and firms.

Present law requires architects to use the title "architect" in connection with their practice and to maintain a seal or stamp on all drawings and specifications. Provides requirements for use of the seal and prohibits its misuse.

Proposed law retains present law except removes the use of a stamp and requirement of the

stamp containing the architect's name and the words "Registered Architect, State of Louisiana" and the architect's license number. Requires the seal to be an image authorized by the board.

Present law provides for disciplinary actions, revocation, suspension, probation, reprimand, admonishment, and fines.

Proposed law retains present law except provides for rescission of licensure.

Present law authorizes the board to take enforcement actions against persons or entities for unlicensed practice, misuse of credentials, fraud, impersonation, or other violations, and provides for criminal penalties, civil fines, and administrative enforcement procedures. Provides for investigations, hearings, fines, appeals, and enforcement by the attorney general and district attorneys, and allows the board to pursue civil actions and recover costs associated with enforcement.

Proposed law retains present law except adds additional prohibited acts, including use of a deceptively similar seal, unauthorized use of the title "architect," false claims of licensure, failure to comply with board orders, and failure to timely provide information requested by the board.

Present law authorizes the board to seek injunctive relief to prevent violations of present law and allows courts to impose civil penalties, including attorney fees, costs, and expenses, with a minimum penalty of \$1,000.

Proposed law retains present law except provides that injunction proceedings shall be summary and tried without a jury and that violations of an injunction constitute contempt of court.

Present law requires the board to submit an annual report to the governor detailing its activities and recommendations.

Proposed law revises present law to require the report to summarize the board's primary activities during the preceding calendar year.

Present law provides that architectural firms, both domestic and foreign, are subject to regulation by the board, requires firms to apply for licensure after formation or qualification, and authorizes the board to issue a license if the firm complies with applicable laws and rules, thereby permitting the firm to provide architectural services and be subject to disciplinary action.

Proposed law retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:141-154, 156, 157, and 158; repeals R.S. 37:146.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Restore the present law definition of "the practice of architecture".
2. Make technical changes.