

OHIO ARCHITECTS BOARD

General information (ARC)

Duties

The Architects Board is charged under Revised Code Chapter 4703 with ensuring the competency of architects by setting standards for the education, experience, service, conduct and practice to be followed by architects. The Board adopts rules, establishes practices, investigates complaints and violations of its rules and requirements, and educates the public as to the profession.

Membership *(Current members, chairperson and other officers, and selection process.)*

The Board consists of 5 members, all architects who have been licensed for at least 10 years. Board members are chosen by the governor's office and serve for a term of 5 years beginning on October 3rd. The current members are Monica Green (President), Doug Steidl (Vice President), Christopher Meyers (Secretary), Bob Larrimer (assistant Secretary), and John Rademacher (member).

Budget *(Current budget, description of budgeting process, sources of funding, and expected increases or decreases in budget or funding in future years.)*

The Ohio Architects Board shares the budget and administrative staff of the Ohio Landscape Architects Board. The combined budget for FY23 is \$662,991 and is completely self-funded by licensing fees. No GRF fees are used. The Board anticipates a moderate increased budget request for FY24-FY25 due to inflation and rising administrative costs.

Workload *(Assess current, past, and anticipated workload. Has the workload increased or decreased significantly in the preceding six years?)*

The Board staff workload remains relatively consistent over the past six years. While the number of applications and licensees have increased by approximately 7-8% since 2016, the increased automation provided by the elicense system has kept the workload manageable.

Increased proactive enforcement may increase the staff workload and enforcement actions may increase workload by up to 10%, but remains within our current capabilities etc. in strategic initiatives

Staffing *(How many staff are currently employed by the Board? What are their roles? Are staffing levels proportionate to the Board's current and anticipated workload?)*

Currently there are 4 staff members employed by the Architects Board and shared by the Landscape Architects Board: a Certification/Licensing Examiner, responsible for all initial administrative licensing matters; an investigator, responsible for all investigations and enforcement matters for the Board; a Program Administrator, responsible for fiscal and upper level licensing matters and serves as the deputy Executive Director; and an Executive Director, responsible for all management, education and outreach matters

Administrative hearings and public complaints *(Describe the Board's processes for administering discipline and addressing complaints. Assess the efficiency of the processes.)*

The Board investigates 100% of all complaints received and determines the proper disciplinary response. The Board also proactively searches the internet for potential violations and conducts random audits of licensees to determine compliance with continuing education requirements. If these proactive efforts find violations of the Board's laws or rules, the Board will determine the proper discipline. If a violation warrants discipline rather than education, the Board complies with the notice and administrative hearing requirements of RC Chapter 119. The Board's processes are efficient and thorough and strike the proper balance between protecting the public without being unduly burdensome upon the architectural industry.

Architect

Survey responses (ARC)

| Description |
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| Architects are specially trained and educated individuals who plan, design, and oversee the construction of buildings, especially in the commercial arena. Architects conduct preliminary studies of the space, prepare designs and drawings, prepare technical submissions, coordinate with clients, stakeholders, government officials, and other design professionals, oversee construction, and administer construction contracts. They serve as both the creative influence and the project manager for the creation of buildings. They ensure that the buildings they design meet not only the needs of their clients, but the health, safety, and welfare of the public that use those buildings. |

| Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.) |
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| License; Architects are required to hold a license pursuant to RC 4703.06 |

| If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following: | |
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| Number issued annually | Approximately 315 new architect licenses are issued annually |
| Number renewed annually | Renewal is a biennial requirement. Approximately 6600 architects renew their licenses during every 2-year period. |

| If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following: | |
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| Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years? | Architect licensure has remained mostly consistent over the past 6 years with a slight total increase of approximately 8% |
| Education or training requirements | Architects are required to complete an architecture degree program accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (“NAAB”) |
| Experience requirements | 3740 hours of supervised experience in specified topics of architecture. The experience program is managed by NCARB and required by every US state. |
| Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Board receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>) | Successful completion of the Architect Registration Examination (“ARE”). The examination is national and a requirement of every U.S. state. The exam is written and administered by the National Council of Architect Registration Boards (“NCARB”) and is proctored by PSI. NCARB charges either \$225 each of the 6 sections of the ARE, and none of these fees are received by the Board. NCARB uses the fees to pay for the costs associated with drafting and administering the examination. |
| Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>) | 12 hours of continuing education each year, all in the topics of Health, Safety and Welfare. Classes are offered by certain providers approved by the Board, and many are free. |
| Initial fee | License by examination: \$50. License by reciprocity: \$250 |
| Duration | Up to 2 years, or until expiration on December 31 st of odd-numbered years (e.g., 12/31/2021, 12/31/2023) |
| Renewal fee (<i>If different from initial fee, please explain why.</i>) | \$125. The initial license fee structure is reduced for first-time licensees (who are typically recent graduates) and increased for reciprocal candidates (who are typically established professionals) and does not necessarily reflect the actual cost of application review and approval. The renewal fees reflect the ongoing costs of enforcement and administration of the Board activities. |

| If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following: | |
|---|--|
| Does the Board recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity? | The Board allows for reciprocal licensure; Approximately 79% of all new licenses granted are reciprocal applicants. |
| Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation? | No |
| Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Board? | Yes; there is some overlap between the practice of architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture, and architects may practice engineering or landscape architecture that is incidental to the practice of architecture pursuant to RC 4703.32 and RC 4703.18. Moreover, professionals pursuing licensure may practice architecture solely under the supervision of a licensed architect. |
| Is the Board permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual? | The licensing requirements for education, experience, and examination are objective and allow for very little discretionary decisions by the Board. Very rarely discretionary review of experience may be required. |
| Other information (Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.) | N/A |

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Board respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

The Board has oversight and disciplinary authority over all licensed architects to ensure compliance with its laws and rules, to protect the health, safety and welfare of Ohio citizens and the built environment. The Board investigates all complaints regarding architects, including complaints of competency, professionalism, and ethics. The Board also conducts random audits of the continuing education of licensees to ensure their competency. The Board is authorized to discipline licensees for violations of its laws and rules, including its code of ethics, through fines, suspension, or revocation of licenses. The Board may also seek injunctive or criminal action against those engaged in the unlicensed practice of architecture, pursuant to RC 4703.18.

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Board to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

Approximately \$530,000 average annual revenue (\$1,060,000 biennially) is derived from individual licensing and renewal fees charged by the Architects Board. The revenue is used to support the administrative, licensing, enforcement, and educational activities of the Board.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

There are no federal regulations that apply to the occupation of Architecture, and no federal laws require state regulation.

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

The regulation seeks to prevent harm to the public that would be caused by the incompetent practice of architecture, especially in public areas. The regulation ensures that practicing architects have proven competencies in project development, design, egress, building materials, construction supervision and contract management, and that they comport themselves ethically in accordance with the industry standard practices. A lack of competence or ethics in these critical public safety areas would present a real danger to clients and the users of these public and private spaces, causing physical injury, property damage, and financial ruin.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes; the licensing requirements of RC 4703.01 et seq prevent public harm by ensuring architecture competencies through advanced education, supervised experience, and a rigorous professional examination. The education, experience, and examination required to earn a license, as well as the architects code of ethics and practice requirements, ensure that licensed architects are ethical and knowledgeable. This ensures that Ohio’s architects design safe, hazard-free buildings for the public to enjoy in the manner intended, thereby bringing value to the client and the community at large. The lack of catastrophic building accidents in this country is a testament to the nation’s efficient statewide regulation of the industry.

Are there any changes the Board would like to see implemented?

The Board would like to see additional enforcement powers over unlicensed persons, which is currently limited to pursuing criminal sanctions.

Surrounding state comparison (LSC)

| Certificate of Qualification to Practice Architecture | | | | | | |
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| | Ohio | Indiana | Kentucky | Michigan | Pennsylvania | West Virginia |
| Type of regulation | Certificate of qualification and registration (<i>R.C. 4703.06</i>). | Certificate of registration (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-6</i>). | License (<i>Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.020</i>). | License (<i>Mich. Comp. Laws 339.2004</i>). | Certificate license (<i>63 Pa. Cons. Stat. 34.10</i>). | Certificate of registration (<i>W. Va. Code 30-12-3 and 30-12-4</i>). |
| Education or training | Professional degree in architecture or integrated path | Professional degree from a school or college of architecture | Professional degree in architecture accredited by the | Professional degree or further degree in architecture | Professional degree in architecture from an accredited | Professional degree in architecture from an accredited |

Certificate of Qualification to Practice Architecture

| | Ohio | Indiana | Kentucky | Michigan | Pennsylvania | West Virginia |
|------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (<i>R.C. 4703.07; O.A.C. 4703-2-02</i>). | accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-6</i>). | National Architectural Accrediting Board (<i>Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.050</i>). | accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (<i>Mich. Comp. Laws 339.2004; Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15201</i>). | school (<i>63 Pa. Cons. Stat. 34.8</i>). | school recognized by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (<i>W. Va. Code 30-12-4; W. Va. Code R. 2-1-5</i>). |
| Experience | At least 18 years of age. Internship program (architecture experience program). (<i>R.C. 4703.07; O.A.C. 4703-2-06</i> .) | At least 18 years of age (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-7</i>). Intern development program of at least 3,740 hours (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-6 and 25-4-1-7.5; 804 Ind. Admin. Code 1.1-7-1.1</i>). | Intern Development Program training requirements as provided by the National Council of Architectural Registration Board's (NCARB's) Intern Development Program Guidelines (<i>201 Ky. Admin. Reg. 19:035</i>). | Either of the following professional experiences in architectural work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A valid certificate of completion of any internship program from NCARB; or ▪ Proof of current and continuous licensure in another state | At least three years practical experience in the employ of or under the direct supervision of a registered architect or as part of the applicant's academic training or six years of practical experience in lieu of a professional degree but requires an | N/A |

| Certificate of Qualification to Practice Architecture | | | | | | |
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| | Ohio | Indiana | Kentucky | Michigan | Pennsylvania | West Virginia |
| | | | | of at least five years. <i>(Mich. Comp. Laws 339.2004; Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15202.)</i> | additional qualifying exam <i>(63 Pa. Cons. Stat. 34.8).</i> | |
| Exam | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>R.C. 4703.07 and 4703.09; O.A.C. 4703-2-01</i>). | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-9; 804 Ind. Admin. Code 1.1-6-2</i>). | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>Ky. Rev. Stat. 323-050; Kentucky Board of Architects website</i>). | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>Mich. Comp. Laws 339.2004; Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15204</i>). | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>63 Pa. Cons. Stat. 34.8; 49 Pa. Code 9.41a</i>). | Architect Registration Exam administered by NCARB (<i>W. Va. Code R. 2-1-5 and 2-1-7</i>). |
| Continuing education | 12 hours each year in health, safety, and welfare subjects (<i>O.A.C. 4703-2-07</i>). | 24 hours every two years (<i>804 Ind. Admin. Code 1.1-8-3</i>). | 12 hours each year on relevant topics addressing health, safety, and welfare subjects (<i>201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 19:087</i>). | Not less than 24 hours every two years (<i>Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15501; Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15502</i>). | N/A | 12 hours each year in health, safety, and welfare subjects acquired in structured educational activities (<i>W. Va. Code R. 2-1-8</i>). |
| Initial licensure fee | \$50 (<i>R.C. 4703.16 and 4703.51; O.A.C. 4703-1-04</i>). | \$150 (<i>Ind. Code 25-4-1-16 and 25-1-8-2; 804 Ind.</i> | \$200 application processing fee for exam; \$50 for license upon | \$30 processing fee (<i>Mich. Comp. Laws 338.2213</i>). | \$40 (<i>63 Pa. Cons. Stat. 34.11; 49 Pa. Code 9.3</i>)). | \$100 filing fee (<i>W. Va. Code R. 2-3-3</i>). |

Certificate of Qualification to Practice Architecture

| | Ohio | Indiana | Kentucky | Michigan | Pennsylvania | West Virginia |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | <i>Admin. Code 1.1-3-1.1).</i> | passage of exam <i>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 323-080).</i> | | | |
| License duration | From date of issuance to December 31 of the odd number year succeeding that date; two years thereafter <i>(R.C. 4703.12 and 4703.13).</i> | Two years <i>(Ind. Code 25-4-1-14).</i> | One or two years <i>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 323.110).</i> | Two years <i>(Mich. Admin. Code R. 339.15501).</i> | Two years <i>(49 Pa. Code 9.3).</i> | One year <i>(W. Va. Code 30-12-5; W. Va. Code R. 2-1-8).</i> |
| Renewal fee | \$125 <i>(R.C. 4703.16 and 4703.51; O.A.C. 4703-1-04).</i> | \$100 <i>(804 Ind. Admin. Code 1.1-3-1.1).</i> | \$250 <i>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 323-080).</i> | \$35 <i>(Mich. Comp. Laws 338.2213).</i> | \$100 <i>(49 Pa. Code 9.3).</i> | \$75 <i>(W. Va. Code R. 2-3-3).</i> |