

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB1310 E

Patron: McPike

Bill Title: Professions and occupations; alternative to education requirement for licensure of architects

Bill Summary: Requires the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects to adopt regulations establishing work and education experience equivalencies that shall provide an alternative to the requirement of a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. The bill also requires the Board to adopt regulations establishing a credit system to account for varying degrees of work and education experience and to develop requirements for applicants seeking licensure under this bill on an annual basis. The bill requires the Board to evaluate any past work or education experience of any applicant under this bill until July 1, 2028.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: None.

Explanation: This bill impacts the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section, below.

Fiscal Summary: Any fiscal impact to the Commonwealth can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill directs DPOR's Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects to develop an alternate credential path based on credits for work and education experience in addition to the current method of requiring a professional degree. It is anticipated that this work can be completed by the Board within their existing schedule, and no additional resources will be required. If the additional credential option results in an increase in applications and regulants, DPOR could realize a revenue increase, however the amount is indeterminate. If revenues exceed expenses by more than 20 percent, the Board would need to reduce fees in compliance with the Callahan Act (§ 54.1-113).

Other: This bill is similar to HB2154.