
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 759 (Valencia) - Architects: architects-in-training

Version: July 17, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: B., P. & E.D. 11 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 759 authorizes, beginning January 1, 2027, a candidate for licensure as an architect who has successfully passed at least one division of the examination to practice architecture, to use the title “architect-in-training” while under the supervision of a licensed architect, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Architects Board reports costs of approximately \$264,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 and \$248,000 in FY 2027-28 and annually ongoing for additional staff to establish the title, review applications, and conduct enforcement activities (California Architects Board Fund). Fee revenues may offset the board’s administrative costs to some extent; however, costs will not be offset until the board is able to determine, establish, and collect title application fees.
- The Office of Information Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs notes an absorbable IT impact of approximately \$6,000.

Background: Generally, to become a licensed architect, a total of eight years of architectural training and education experience is required for licensure. Up to five years may be substituted with education on a year for year basis. The candidate must successfully take all divisions of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE), as well as the California Supplemental Examination.

Proposed Law:

- Provides that a person may apply to the board and obtain authorization to use the title “architect-in-training” once they have been identified as a candidate for licensure by the board if the person meets both of the following requirements:
 - The applicant successfully passed at least one division of the examination for a license to practice architecture.
 - The applicant submits to the board the name and license number of the licensed architect who will be responsible for supervising the applicant while using the title “architect-in-training”.
- Requires the supervising architect to submit a form, as determined by the board, agreeing to be responsible for the work to be performed by the applicant before the board can approve an applicant’s use of the title “architect-in-training.”

- If the supervising architect changes, requires the person using the title to notify the board of the change and the information of their new supervising architect within 30 days of the change.
- Authorizes a person using the title “architect-in-training” to request the board to place their authorization to use the title on inactive status during any period the person is not under supervision of a licensed architect.
- Prohibits any other abbreviations other than “AIT” from being used as a derivative of the “architect-in-training” title.
- Prohibits a person from using the “architect-in-training” title to independently offer or provide architectural services to the public.
- Provides that violations of the use of the “architect-in-training” title under the provisions of this bill may constitute unprofessional conduct and subject the user to citation or disciplinary action by the board.
- Authorizes the board to charge a fee to evaluate whether a candidate meets the requirements to use the “architect-in-training” title.
- Provides a person to use the “architect-in-training” title for up to a period of four years after approval by the board, and authorizes a person to use the title a second time if the person passes a division of the licensing exam in the four years immediately preceding the person’s application.
- Sunsets the authorization for a person to apply for an “architect-in-training” title on January 1, 2033.
- Authorizes the board to investigate the actions of a person using the “architect-in-training” title and authorizes the board to suspend or revoke an active authorization to use the title for specified reasons.
- Provides that a supervising architect is subject to disciplinary actions for any of the violations committed by the person using that title within the course and scope of their employment.
- Makes the provisions of this bill operative on January 1, 2027, and sunsets its provisions on January 1, 2037.

Related Legislation: SB 1132 (Galgiani, 2016) would have allowed individuals to use the title architect-in-training if they had earned a high school diploma and were enrolled in the National Council of Architectural Registration Board’s Experience Program. SB 1132 was vetoed.

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