

HB594 INTRODUCED



1 HB594
2 Y5KV666-1
3 By Representatives Rafferty, Wilcox, Underwood
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 17-Apr-25



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects regulates the practice of landscape architecture in this state.

This bill would clarify definitions, examination requirements, and fees.

This bill would provide for reciprocity.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to current style.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects; to amend Sections 34-17-1, 34-17-20, 34-17-21, 34-17-22, 34-17-25, and 34-17-26, Code of Alabama 1975, to clarify definitions, examination requirements, and fees; to provide for reciprocity; to repeal Section 34-17-23, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to reciprocity; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



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Section 1. Sections 34-17-1, 34-17-20, 34-17-21, 34-17-22, 34-17-25, and 34-17-26 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§34-17-1

For purposes of this chapter, the following words~~and phrases shall~~ have the~~respective~~ following meanings~~ascribed by this section~~:

(1) BOARD. The Alabama~~State~~ Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects.

(2) CLARB. The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards which is comprised of members of landscape architect licensing boards located across the United States and Canada.

~~(2)~~ (3) LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.~~A person~~ An individual who is engaged or offers to engage in the practice of landscape architecture,~~as hereinafter defined in this state.~~

~~(3)~~ (4) LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE. The performance of professional services such as consultation, investigation, research, planning, design, preparation of drawings and specifications, and responsible supervision in connection with the development of land areas where, and to the extent that the dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement, or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, planting, naturalistic and aesthetic values, the settings and approaches to structures or other improvements, the setting of grades and determining drainage and providing for standard drainage structures, and the consideration and determination of environmental problems of



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land including erosion, blight, and other hazards. This practice shall include the design of such tangible objects and features as are incidental and necessary to the purpose outlined ~~herein~~ in this chapter but shall not include the design of structures or facilities with separate and self-contained purposes such as are ordinarily included in the practice of engineering or architecture, and shall not include the making of land surveys of final plats for official approval or recordation. Nothing contained herein shall preclude a duly licensed landscape architect from performing any of the services described in the first sentence of this subsection in connection with the settings, approaches, or environment for buildings, structures, or facilities. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed as authorizing a landscape architect to engage in the practice of architecture, engineering, or land surveying as these terms are defined in Section 34-17-27."

"§34-17-20

(a) In order to safeguard public welfare, health, and property and to promote public good, any ~~person~~ individual practicing or offering to practice landscape architecture, privately or in public service, shall ~~be required to~~ submit evidence that he or she is qualified to practice as ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this chapter. It shall be unlawful for any ~~person~~ individual to practice landscape architecture or to use the term or title "landscape architect" or "registered landscape architect" unless he or she is duly licensed under ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter.



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(b) The ~~state~~ board shall adopt a program of continuing education for its licensees not later than October 1, 1993, and after that date no licensee shall have his or her active license renewed unless, in addition to any other requirements of this chapter, the minimum continuing annual education requirements are met. It is further provided that the continuing education program ~~herein required~~ shall not include testing or examination of the licensees in any manner."

"§34-17-21

For licensing as a landscape architect, ~~the following evidence shall be submitted that~~ the applicant shall comply with at least one of the following:

(1) ~~Is at least 19 years of age~~ Hold a degree in landscape architecture from a school or college approved by the board or meet the alternative education requirements approved by the board and satisfy the examination and experience requirements.

~~(2) Has, before making application to the board, completed the course of study in and been graduated from a college or school of landscape architecture approved by the board. The application for examination shall be accompanied by proof of actual practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board. Each complete year of study in an approved college or school of landscape architecture shall be accepted in lieu of one year of practical experience, and the applicant shall submit evidence of sufficient additional acceptable experience to total five years of combined education and practical~~



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~~experience. The master's or doctoral degree in landscape architecture shall fulfill the requirements for five years combined education and practical experience. The applicant shall also submit proof of one additional year of practical experience sufficient to total six years of combined education and practical experience. In lieu of graduation from an accredited college or school of landscape architecture, and the practical experience in addition thereto, an applicant may be admitted to the examination upon presenting evidence of at least eight years of actual practical experience in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board. In order to qualify for the exemption from the requirement to obtain a degree in landscape architecture based on eight years of practical experience, an applicant must have begun accepting practical experience prior to August 1, 2012.~~

~~(3) Is a citizen of the United States or, if not a citizen of the United States, is a person who is legally present in the United States with appropriate documentation from the federal government~~ (2) Satisfy the requirements for licensing by reciprocity as provided by board rule."

"§34-17-22

~~Examinations for the license shall be held by the board at least once each year. The board shall adopt rules and regulations covering the subjects and scope of the examinations, shall publish appropriate announcements and shall conduct the examinations at the times designated. Except as hereinafter provided in this chapter to the contrary, every applicant for licensing as a landscape architect shall be~~



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~~required, in addition to all other requirements, to establish~~
~~by a board approved examination, which may be digital, his or~~
~~her competence to plan, design, specify, and supervise the~~
~~installation of landscape projects. Each board approved~~
~~examination may be supplemented by such oral examinations as~~
~~the board shall determine~~The licensing examination shall be
developed and administered by CLARB."

"§34-17-25

The fees prescribed by this chapter shall be in the
following amounts:

(1) The fee for application to the board is one hundred
fifty dollars (\$150).

(2) The fee for examination or reexamination shall be
in an amount as established by the board in order to cover all
costs of examination, but in no event shall the fee exceed the
actual cost of preparing and administering the examination.

(3) The fee for an original certificate is fifty
dollars (\$50).

(4) The fee for a duplicate certificate is fifty
dollars (\$50).

(5) The annual license fee is one hundred fifty dollars
(\$150).

(6) The delinquent penalty fee is fifty dollars (\$50).

(7) The fee for administration of the ~~supplemental~~
~~examination~~ attestation, review, and recording on the statutes
and laws governing the practice of landscape architecture in
~~Alabama~~ this state is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(8) The reinstatement fee is three hundred dollars



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169 (\$300) .

170 (9) The inactive status fee is seventy-five dollars
171 (\$75) ."

172 "§34-17-26

173 The board, ~~subject to the provisions of this chapter~~
174 ~~and the rules and regulations of the board promulgated~~
175 ~~thereunder prescribing~~ by rule, may provide for the
176 qualifications for a landscape architect license, ~~may permit~~
177 ~~the practice of landscape architecture in this state under a~~
178 ~~landscape architect license issued under the laws of any other~~
179 ~~state or country, upon payment of the current fee established~~
180 ~~by the board, and upon submission of all of the following~~
181 ~~evidence satisfactory to the board:~~ by reciprocity.

182 ~~(1) That the other state or country maintained a system~~
183 ~~and standard of qualifications and examinations for a~~
184 ~~landscape architect license which were substantially~~
185 ~~equivalent to those required in this state at the time the~~
186 ~~license was issued by the other state or country.~~

187 ~~(2) That the other state or country gives similar~~
188 ~~recognition and endorsement to landscape architect licenses of~~
189 ~~this state."~~

190 Section 2. Section 34-17-23, Code of Alabama 1975,
191 relating to the reciprocal licensing of architects, is
192 repealed.

193 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
194 1, 2025.