

**Senate Study Bill 1173 - Introduced**

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE/BANKING DIVISION  
BILL)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying provisions relating to the licensure of  
2 professional landscape architects.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 544B.3, subsection 1, Code 2019, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. A landscape architectural examining board is created  
4 within the professional licensing and regulation bureau of  
5 the banking division of the department of commerce. The  
6 board consists of five members who are professional landscape  
7 architects and two members who are not professional landscape  
8 architects and who shall represent the general public. Members  
9 shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation  
10 by the senate. A Four of the five professional member  
11 members shall be actively engaged in the practice of landscape  
12 architecture or the teaching of landscape architecture in  
13 an accredited college or university, and shall have been so  
14 engaged for five years preceding appointment, the last two of  
15 which shall have been in Iowa. One of the five professional  
16 members shall be actively engaged in the practice of landscape  
17 architecture or the teaching of landscape architecture in an  
18 accredited college or university, and may have been so engaged  
19 for fewer than five years preceding appointment but at least  
20 one year preceding appointment. Associations or societies  
21 composed of professional landscape architects may recommend the  
22 names of potential board members to the governor. However,  
23 the governor is not bound by the recommendations. A board  
24 member shall not be required to be a member of any professional  
25 association or society composed of professional landscape  
26 architects.

27 Sec. 2. Section 544B.5, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
28 follows:

29 **544B.5 Duties.**

30 The board shall enforce ~~this chapter~~, and shall make rules  
31 for the examination of applicants for licensure, ~~and, after~~  
32 ~~public notice, shall conduct examinations of applicants for~~  
33 ~~licensure.~~ The board shall keep a record of its proceedings.  
34 The board shall adopt an official seal which shall be affixed  
35 to all certificates of licensure granted. The board may

1 make other rules, not inconsistent with law, as necessary  
2 for the proper performance of its duties. The board shall  
3 maintain a roster showing the name, place of business, and  
4 residence, and the date and number of the certificate of  
5 licensure of every professional landscape architect in this  
6 state. The administrator of the professional licensing and  
7 regulation bureau of the banking division of the department of  
8 commerce shall hire and provide staff to assist the board in  
9 implementing [this chapter](#).

10 Sec. 3. Section 544B.8, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 ~~1. The board shall conduct examinations of applicants~~  
13 ~~for certificates of licensure as professional landscape~~  
14 ~~architects at least once each year, or, if there are sufficient~~  
15 ~~applications, at such additional times as the board may deem~~  
16 ~~necessary. The examination shall determine the ability of~~  
17 ~~the applicant to use and understand the theory and practice~~  
18 ~~of landscape architecture and may be divided into such~~  
19 ~~subjects as the board deems necessary. The board shall~~  
20 ~~determine the annual cost of administering the examinations~~  
21 ~~and shall set the fees accordingly. A person applying for a~~  
22 certificate of licensure as a professional landscape architect  
23 shall satisfactorily pass an examination in technical and  
24 professional subjects prescribed by the board. The board  
25 may adopt the uniform standardized examination and grading  
26 procedures of a national certification body recognized by the  
27 board. The examination may be conducted by representatives of  
28 the board. The identity of a person taking the examination  
29 shall be concealed until after the examination is graded.  
30 The fee for examination shall be based on the annual cost  
31 of administering the examinations. The public members of  
32 the board shall be allowed to participate in administrative,  
33 clerical, or ministerial functions incident to giving the  
34 examination, but shall not determine the content of the  
35 examination or determine the correctness of the answers.

1 Sec. 4. Section 544B.9, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
2 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 Any person may apply for a certificate of licensure or  
4 may apply to take an examination for such certification.  
5 Applications for licensure shall be on forms prescribed and  
6 furnished by the board, shall contain statements made under  
7 oath, showing the applicant's education and detail summary of  
8 the applicant's pertinent practical landscape architectural  
9 work and experience. The board shall not require that a recent  
10 photograph of the applicant be attached to the application  
11 form. An applicant shall not be ineligible for licensure  
12 ~~because of age, citizenship, sex, race, religion, marital~~  
13 ~~status, or national origin~~ on the basis of membership in any  
14 protected class under chapter 216. The board may consider  
15 the past felony record of an applicant only if the felony  
16 conviction relates directly to the practice of landscape  
17 architecture. Character references may be required but  
18 shall not be obtained from professional landscape architects.  
19 ~~An application for examination shall be accompanied by an~~  
20 ~~examination fee in the amount determined by the board.~~ Each  
21 applicant for licensure as a professional landscape architect  
22 shall meet one of the following requirements:

23 Sec. 5. Section 544B.10, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **544B.10 Foreign licensees.**

26 Any applicant who holds a license or certificate to practice  
27 landscape architecture issued to the applicant upon examination  
28 by a national certification body recognized by the board  
29 as prescribed by rule, or by a board of examiners in any  
30 other state, territory, or possession of the United States,  
31 the District of Columbia, or of any foreign country, if the  
32 requirements for such license or certificate were, at the time  
33 it was issued, in the opinion of the board, equal to or higher  
34 than the requirements of this state, may be licensed without  
35 further examination.

1     Sec. 6. Section 544B.11, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3     **544B.11 Licensure.**

4     When an applicant has complied with the application  
5 requirements of **this chapter** and has passed the examination  
6 ~~to the satisfaction of a majority of the licensed members~~  
7 ~~of prescribed by the board~~, or is a foreign registrant and  
8 has qualified for licensure under **this chapter**, and has paid  
9 the required licensure fee, the secretary shall enroll the  
10 applicant's name and address in the roster of professional  
11 landscape architects and issue to the applicant a certificate  
12 of licensure, ~~signed by the officers of the board.~~

13    Sec. 7. Section 544B.12, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
14 follows:

15    **544B.12 Seal.**

16    Every professional landscape architect shall have a seal,  
17 ~~approved by the board~~, which shall contain the name of the  
18 landscape architect and the words "Professional Landscape  
19 Architect, State of Iowa", and such other words or figures as  
20 the board may deem necessary. All landscape architectural  
21 plans and specifications, prepared by such professional  
22 landscape architect or under the supervision of such  
23 professional landscape architect, shall be dated and bear the  
24 legible seal of such professional landscape architect. Nothing  
25 contained in **this section** shall be construed to permit the seal  
26 of a professional landscape architect to serve as a substitute  
27 for the seal of a licensed architect, a licensed professional  
28 engineer, or a licensed professional land surveyor whenever the  
29 seal of an architect, engineer, or land surveyor is required  
30 under the laws of this state.

31    Sec. 8. Section 544B.16, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33    **544B.16 Procedure.**

34    A person may file ~~charges~~ a complaint with the board against  
35 a professional landscape architect or the board may initiate

1 ~~charges a complaint. The charges shall be in writing, sworn~~  
2 ~~to if by a complainant other than the board, and filed with~~  
3 ~~the board. Unless the charges are complaint is dismissed~~  
4 by the board as unfounded or trivial, the board may request  
5 the department of inspections and appeals to conduct an  
6 investigation into the ~~charges~~ complaint. The department of  
7 inspections and appeals shall report its findings to the board,  
8 and the board shall hold a hearing within sixty days after the  
9 date on which the ~~charges are~~ complaint is filed. The board  
10 shall fix the time and place for such hearing and shall cause  
11 a copy of the ~~charges~~ complaint, together with a notice of  
12 the time and place fixed for the hearing, to be served on the  
13 accused at least thirty days before the date fixed for the  
14 hearing. Where personal service cannot be effected, service  
15 may be effected by publication. At such hearing, the accused  
16 shall have the right to appear personally or by counsel, to  
17 cross-examine witnesses against the accused, and to produce  
18 evidence and witnesses in defense. After the hearing, the  
19 board may suspend or revoke the certificate of licensure. The  
20 board may restore the certificate of licensure to any person  
21 whose certificate of licensure has been revoked. Application  
22 for the restoration of a certificate of licensure shall be made  
23 in such manner, form, and content as the board may prescribe.

24

EXPLANATION

25           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27       This bill modifies provisions in Code chapter 544B, relating  
28 to the licensure of professional landscape architects by the  
29 landscape architectural examining board.

30       Current law requires all five professional members of the  
31 board to be actively engaged in the practice or teaching of  
32 landscape architecture for five years preceding appointment to  
33 the board, the last two of which in Iowa. The bill provides  
34 that one of the five professional members may be actively  
35 engaged in the practice or teaching of landscape architecture

1 for fewer than five years preceding appointment to the board  
2 but at least one year preceding appointment.

3 The bill removes language providing that the board shall  
4 conduct examinations for licensure after providing public  
5 notice. The bill also removes language providing that the  
6 board shall conduct examinations for licensure at least once a  
7 year. The bill provides that the board may adopt the uniform  
8 standardized examination and grading procedures of a national  
9 certification body recognized by the board. The bill provides  
10 that the examination may be conducted by representatives of the  
11 board. The bill provides that the identity of persons taking  
12 the examination shall be concealed until after examinations are  
13 graded.

14 Current law provides than an applicant for licensure shall  
15 not be ineligible for licensure because of age, citizenship,  
16 sex, race, religion, marital status, or national origin.  
17 The bill broadens this prohibition by providing that an  
18 applicant shall not be ineligible for licensure on the basis of  
19 membership in any protected class under Code chapter 216, the  
20 Iowa civil rights Act.

21 The bill allows an applicant for licensure holding a license  
22 or certificate to practice landscape architecture issued upon  
23 examination by a national certification body recognized by  
24 the board as prescribed by rule, in addition to examination  
25 by another state or foreign country, to be licensed in Iowa  
26 without further examination under certain circumstances.

27 The bill removes language providing that a certificate  
28 of licensure shall be signed by the officers of the board.  
29 The bill also removes language providing that the seal of a  
30 professional landscape architect shall be approved by the  
31 board.

32 The bill replaces the term "charge" with "complaint" in Code  
33 section 544B.16, which establishes a procedure for complaints  
34 against professional landscape architects. The bill removes  
35 language requiring a complaint against a professional landscape

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1 architect by a person other than the board to be sworn to and  
2 in writing.