



## **Review of Occupational Regulations**

### **PRIORITY**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>SB 1124</b> – Senator Manny Diaz (R – Hialeah Gardens) and <b>HB 707</b> – Representative Paul Renner (R – Palm Coast) call for the review and sunseting of all occupational and professional licenses, including architecture, that are under the purview of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
<b>Summary</b>	Safe shelter is a fundamental human need. Architects are licensed to protect the health, safety and welfare of all who interact with the built environment. Architects are licensed upon completion of a rigorous education program and a thorough multi-part examination process, and they possess the necessary training and experience to protect the citizens of Florida where they live, work and play.
<b>Explanation and Justification</b>	The practice of architecture by unqualified individuals endangers the health, safety and welfare of Floridians and visitors to our state. Whether designing public buildings like schools, hospitals or even state capitol buildings, this complex process can only be led by highly trained, skilled and state-licensed architects. The privilege of licensure comes with great responsibility. Architects must adhere to a high standard of education and lifelong learning.
<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Architects, in their protection of health, safety and welfare, should immediately be removed from this bill.</b>



## **Deregulation of Professions and Occupations**

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>SB 474</b> – Senator Ben Albritton (R – Bartow) and <b>HB 1193</b> – Representative Blaise Ingoglia (R – Spring Hill) deregulates certain professions, removes the Advanced Florida Building code continuing education requirement for architects and reduces the size of the Florida Building Commission.
<b>Summary 1</b>	Architects protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, often designing above the minimums established in the Florida Building Code. In addition to their degreed education and testing to become licensed, architects complete 24 hours of continuing education every two years that addresses health, safety and welfare and include two hours of advanced course work specific to Florida's building code.
<b>Explanation and Justification</b>	All architects practicing in Florida should have deep understanding of the Florida Building Code and should be required to complete coursework on the codes, code changes, modifications and updates.
<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>AIA Florida opposes lowering the continuing education licensure requirement for architects.</b>
<b>Summary 2</b>	Florida is a state susceptible to severe weather with a unique environment and specific building conditions. The Florida Building Commission is charged with the awesome responsibility of updating Florida's building code on a three-year cycle. Currently, the Commission is comprised of construction related industry representatives, an architect, an engineer and building officials.
<b>Explanation and Justification</b>	The Florida Building Commission must have a fair and broad-based approach to the triennial building code update process. The commission size should allow for robust debate and informed perspectives on the built environment. Representation should include a balance of architects, engineers, building officials and contractors, as needed, to fulfill its duties.
<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>AIA Florida recommends that any reductions to the commission's size should ensure diversified representation, ideally with an emphasis on design professionals licensed to protect the health safety and welfare of Floridians.</b>