

# CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: November 16, 2015

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Architect Registration Examination (ARE) Transition

Sections Affected: Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 118.5 and 119.8

### **Specific Purpose:**

#### **Section 118.5 – Examination Transfer Credit and Section 119.8 – Examination Transition Plan – ARE 4.0 to ARE 5.0**

1. Problem being addressed: The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has developed a new version of the ARE (ARE 5.0) and a transitional credit model for prior ARE versions. No earlier than October 1, 2016, ARE 5.0 will be offered. Beginning October 1, 2016, all candidates obtaining ARE eligibility must take ARE 5.0. Candidates eligible prior to October 1, 2016 will be allowed to take the current version (ARE 4.0) until June 30, 2018 at which point they will be transitioned to ARE 5.0. Action is needed to bring the Board's regulations into alignment with the national architectural examination.
2. Anticipated benefits from this regulatory action: This proposal aligns credit for ARE divisions specified in the regulations with the nationally accepted model. The proposal also creates a chart for those candidates who transition from ARE 4.0 to ARE 5.0, allowing candidates to retain credit for divisions of the ARE passed in prior versions. Candidates who change their licensing jurisdiction to California will retain credit for divisions taken in other jurisdictions.

### **Factual Basis/Rationale:**

The Board is mandated to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and like other regulatory programs under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), is authorized to establish eligibility requirements for applicants of a professional license.

Through Business and Professions Code (BPC) Chapter 3, Division 3, section 5550, the Board is authorized to examine a candidate for licensure. CCR, Title 16, Division 2, section 109, clarifies BPC 5550 and specifies the ARE as the examination to be used when examining candidates for licensure and as an eligibility requirement for the California Supplemental Examination, and subsequently a California architect license.

No earlier than October 1, 2016, NCARB will release ARE 5.0. This reformats the ARE

from seven to six divisions as well as incorporates graphics and performance items throughout the examination. According to NCARB, the goal of ARE 5.0 is to better integrate the examination while improving the assessment of a candidate's knowledge, skill, and ability to practice architecture independently.

Candidates who are deemed eligible to take the ARE on or after October 1, 2016 will be required to take ARE 5.0. ARE 4.0 will continue to be offered until June 30, 2018; candidates may choose to transition from ARE 4.0 to ARE 5.0 until June 30, 2018. However candidates may not transition from Version 5.0 to ARE 4.0. Subsequently, NCARB released a credit model that details the credit transition of ARE divisions from ARE 4.0 to ARE 5.0.

This regulation is necessary to ensure candidates transferring to California from another jurisdiction receive applicable credit for passed ARE divisions. This is also necessary to be consistent with the transition plan used by NCARB.

### **Underlying Data**

ARE 5.0 Credit Model

ARE 5.0 Test Specification

ARE 5.0: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Business Impact**

The proposed regulatory action will not have a significant adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states, because it affects only candidates for examination and licensure, which has no effect on business or bearing on competitiveness.

### **Economic Impact Assessment**

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

- It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because it only affects the licensing examination version and credit for applicants pursuing an architect license, and the effect is insufficient to create or eliminate jobs.
- It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because it only affects the licensing examination version and credit for applicants pursuing an architect license, and there is no indication that any businesses will be affected.
- It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because it only affects the licensing examination version and credit for applicants pursuing an architect license, and there is no indication that any businesses will be affected.

- This regulatory proposal does not affect the health and welfare of California residents because it only affects the licensing examination version and credit for applicants pursuing an architect license.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety because it is not related to worker safety in any manner.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the state's environment because it is not related to the environment in any manner.

### **Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

### **Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulatory proposal would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective or less burdensome to affected private persons and equally effective in achieving the purposes of the regulation in a manner that ensures full compliance with the law being implemented or made specific.

One alternative would be to keep the status quo, but if the Board does not adopt the proposed amendment, candidates would be unable to receive new or transitional credit for examinations in the updated format. This would cause an adverse delay in completion of the ARE, and subsequently licensure.