

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA – DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: November 27, 2007

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Examination Transition Plan – ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0

Section Affected: Title 16, California Code of Regulations, Sections 119.7

Specific Purpose of the Regulation

§ 119.7. Examination Transition Plan – ARE 3.1 to ARE 4.0

The existing regulation sets forth the transition plan for previous divisions of the licensing examination to the current divisions of the computer-based ARE.

In July 2008, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) will be reformatting the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) Version 3.1 from nine to seven divisions and introducing the new examination as Version 4.0. Version 4.0 will be more integrative and will include six divisions containing both graphic vignettes and multiple-choice questions and one division with only graphic vignettes. According to NCARB, the goal of ARE 4.0 is to better integrate the examination while improving the assessment of a candidate's knowledge, skill, and ability to practice architecture independently.

This regulation is necessary to be consistent with the transition plan used by NCARB as ARE 4.0 is launched in July 2008 and candidates are transitioned in July 2009.

Factual Basis/Rationale

The California Architects Board (Board) is mandated to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that only those individuals possessing entry-level competence are granted licensure as architects in California. Consequently, prior to becoming licensed as an architect, a candidate must successfully complete a written examination and the Board-developed California Supplemental Examination and provide evidence of at least eight years of education and/or work experience in architecture or a related field as evaluated by the Board. California currently utilizes the national written examination for architectural licensure, the ARE, which is developed by NCARB.

Underlying Data

NCARB News Clip ARE 4.0 – The Basics
ARE Transition Chart

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.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This proposed regulatory action does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private person than the proposed regulations.