

**TITLE 16 California Architects Board
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: The California Architects Board has not scheduled a hearing on the proposed changes.

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Architect in Training

Section(s) Affected: Section 109.05 of Article 2 of Division 2 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and Section 144 of Article 7 of Division 2 of Title 16 of the CCR

Background and Statement of the Problem:

The California Architects Board (The Board) was created in 1901 by the California State Legislature. The Board licenses, regulates, and investigates complaints against architects in California, totaling approximately 21,000 licensees. It is the Board's duty to enforce and administer the Architects Practice Act, (Business & Professions Code (BPC) Chapter 3 (commencing with section 5500) of Division 3 (Act)). The Board is authorized to establish necessary rules and regulations for the enforcement of the Act and the laws subject to its jurisdiction (BPC section 5526). BPC section 5510.15 mandates that the protection of the public shall be the highest priority of the Board in its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with the other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.

BPC section 5526 authorizes the Board, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (Government Code (Gov. Code) section 11400 et seq.), to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions under the Act. BPC 5561.5 requires that proceedings for suspension or revocation of licenses be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and the Board shall have all the powers granted therein.

Assembly Bill (AB) 759 (Valencia, Chapter 380, Statutes of 2025) created BPC sections 5500.2, 5587, and 5587.5 which establish the Architect-in-Training (AIT) title and the Board's authority to implement it. The AIT sections become effective on January 1, 2027, and are currently set to expire on January 1, 2037. The Board is required to implement regulations to make specific the method to apply for, renew, inactivate, and reactivate the AIT as well as clarify how those using the AIT can update their responsible supervisor.

The Board's funding is classified as special funds, and as such the Board's revenues and expenditures are generated from regulating the profession. Pursuant to Business and

Professions Code sections 5526 and 5604, the Board has the statutory authority to collect fees to carry out its consumer protection mandate and support the functions of the Board. The fees of the Board are required to be sufficient to support the functions or operational needs of the Board. The State of California State Administrative Manual (SAM), section 9210, provides that it is state policy for departments to recover full costs whenever goods or services are provided to others. Section 9210 of the SAM specifies that full costs include “all costs attributable directly to the activity plus a fair share of indirect costs which can be ascribed reasonably to the good or service provided.”

The Board’s fees regulation, 16 CCR section 144, was created to specify the fees that the Board was allowed to charge pursuant to BPC 5604. Currently, the Board does not have a fee specified for the application to use the AIT title which was authorized by BPC 5500.2(g). This proposal is necessary to ensure the Board continues its consumer protection mandate and recovers costs for the services it provides.

Anticipated benefits from this regulatory action:

This proposal will implement the method by which candidates will be authorized to use the AIT title. This regulatory proposal will benefit the health and welfare of Californians by allowing candidates who have passed at least one examination toward licensure to use a title that clarifies, to the public, they are pursuing an architectural license.

Additionally, this proposal will establish a fee for the Board to recoup its expenses for the submittal and processing of an AIT application. The fee will help the Board continue its mission of consumer protection by way of regulation of the profession of architecture while aligning with SAM section 9210.

Specific purpose of, and rationale for, each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

1. Add 16 CCR section 109.05 title

Purpose: Creates 16 CCR 109.05 title “Architect-it-Training Applications.”

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language clarifies the breadth of information contained within this new regulatory section.

2. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (a)(1)(A)-(B)

Purpose: The language in this subsection clarifies what is required to be eligible for authorization to use the title and how to apply for the AIT title.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language informs active candidates who meet specific eligibility requirements about how to apply for the AIT title. Subparagraph (A) specifies the statutory requirements necessary to apply for the title, and subparagraph (B) requires candidates to have passed an examination within the past four years. This ensures candidates are actively pursuing licensure as intended by use of the title. Additionally, this subsection maintains consistency with the renewal requirements as identified in BPC 5500.2(h)(2).

3. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (a)(1)(C)(i)-(x)

Purpose: The language in this subsection clarifies that candidates must submit an application with specific information and a fee when applying for the AIT.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(a)(2) and informs candidates they must submit an application alongside a fee to apply for the AIT. The information requested in (i) – (vi) is necessary to clearly identify the candidate and associate the applications with the correct candidate file. Part (vii) – (x) are required to correctly identify the supervisor for whom the candidate will be working, in order to associate their file with the candidate.

4. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (a)(2)(A)-(B)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states the requirements to be eligible as a responsible supervisor for the AIT candidate.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language helps confirm that responsible supervisors have been complying with Board rules and regulations regarding the practice of architecture. This benefits candidates by ensuring they are receiving supervision from a licensee in good standing with the Board.

5. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (a)(2)(C)

Purpose: The language in this subsection clarifies what the responsible supervisor must send to the Board to be associated as a supervisor of the candidate.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language provides the identifying information that must be sent to the Board along with the signed statement acknowledging the provisions of BPC 5587.5(a) as required in BPC 5500.2(b)(1). This is beneficial so the Board correctly cross references the identified supervisor with the correct candidate, and the supervisor understands their responsibilities for candidates who use the title under their supervision.

6. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (b)

Purpose: This language states, upon meeting the requirements set forth, the Board will authorize use of the AIT title for four years.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This provides that once the candidate and supervisor complete the necessary requirements the Board will authorize use of the AIT title for the candidate for four years. This is beneficial as it identifies the duration the title can be used during its first use by the candidate as allowed by BPC 5500.2(h)(1).

7. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (c)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states candidates are allowed to reapply for the AIT title one additional time after they have met the conditions set forth in

subsection(h).

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This clarifies the requirement in BPC 5500.2(h)(2) and clearly informs the candidate that only one additional application to use the title is permitted. This benefits candidates by identifying where the requirements to apply for a second term of AIT are located in subsection (h) and informs candidates they can only apply for a second four-year period to use the AIT title.

8. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (d)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states candidates who do not meet the requirements to use the title will be notified and have the opportunity to submit additional information to meet the AIT title requirements.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This clarifies that when candidates submit incomplete application information, the Board will notify them and they will have the opportunity to submit the required documentation. This is beneficial as it clearly identifies what the process is if the Board receives an incomplete application.

9. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (e)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states holders of an AIT must notify the Board within 30 calendar days and provide updated information if their responsible supervisor changes.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This is beneficial because the Board is able to identify the candidate who is making the change as well as the licensee who is responsible for their work, since that licensee has obligations and responsibilities for candidates who use the title as stated in BPC 5500.2(b)(1).

10. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (e)(1)(A)-(G)

Purpose: The language in this subsection identifies the information that must be submitted by the candidate within 30 days when they change supervisors.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(b)(2)(A) by specifying what must be submitted to the Board to clearly identify the new responsible supervisor. This is beneficial because receiving the information listed in this subsection will allow the Board to accurately identify the AIT candidate and associate them with the appropriate supervising licensee.

11. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (e)(2)(A)-(D)

Purpose: The language in this subsection identifies the information that must be submitted by the new responsible supervisor to associate them with the correct candidate when acknowledging their responsibility for the candidate's use of the AIT title.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies that the supervisor is responsible

for the identified candidate. This is beneficial because it ensures the Board associates the correct supervising licensee with the appropriate candidate. It also ensures supervisors understand they are ultimately responsible while the candidate uses the AIT title.

12. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (f)(1)-(5)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states holders of an AIT may request their title be placed into an inactive status by submitting a written request with identifying information.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(b)(2)(B)(i) by specifying what must be submitted to the Board to clearly identify the candidate. Additionally, the subsection requires a statement indicating the candidate wants to place their usage of the title into an inactive status, and they will not use the title once it is inactive. This is beneficial because the required information will clearly identify the candidate who is requesting to deactivate their title usage for Board purposes and tracking. Furthermore, the Board will receive a clear indication that the candidate does not want to use the title at that time while the candidate affirms an understanding that they are no longer permitted to use the title.

13. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (g)

Purpose: Adding language in this subsection that states holders of an AIT may request their title be reactivated by following instructions listed.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(b)(2)(B)(ii) by specifying that candidates may request to have their inactive status changed back to active status. This is beneficial because candidates are informed there is an option to reactivate their AIT title and are provided information about where to find the instructions on doing so.

14. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (g)(1)(A)-(G)

Purpose: The language in this subsection states holders of an AIT may request their title be reactivated by providing the information requested.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(b)(2)(B)(ii) by providing that candidates must submit information identifying themselves for the Board's administrative purposes as identified similarly above. Candidates will similarly identify the new supervising licensee who will be responsible while they are using the AIT title, while clearly conveying they are requesting to be moved from an inactive status to an active status. This is beneficial because candidates provide the Board with their clear intention to use the AIT title and their identifying information so the Board can accurately update its systems accordingly. Additionally, the candidate provides the new supervisor information so the Board can associate the relationship.

15. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (g)(2)(A)-(D)

Purpose: The language in this subsection identifies the information that must be submitted by the responsible supervisor to associate them with the correct candidate and acknowledge their responsibility when the candidate uses the AIT title.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This is beneficial because it ensures the Board associates the correct supervising licensee with the appropriate candidate. It also ensures supervisors understand they are ultimately responsible while the candidate uses the AIT title.

16. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (h)(1)-(3)

Purpose: The language in this subsection informs the candidate they can apply a second time to use the AIT title, and the conditions that must be met to do so.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(h)(2) by specifying that candidates must have passed a division of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) within the prior four years, have a licensee supervisor responsible for their AIT title usage, and submit an application to the Board as identified in subsection (a)(1)(C). This is beneficial as it makes candidates aware they can request usage of the AIT title a second time, and provides the method to do so.

17. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (i)

Purpose: The language in this subsection clarifies the enforcement provisions that govern inappropriate use of the AIT title.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5587 which allows the Board to investigate a complaint received related to the use of the AIT title. Additionally, clarification is made that BPC 5560 shall apply should the Board pursue discipline. This is beneficial to the title seeker and licensee supervisor as it describes the Board's enforcement abilities.

18. Add 16 CCR section 109.05, subsection (j)(1)-(3)

Purpose: The language in this subsection identifies how long specific sections within CCR 109.05 will be valid and when the AIT title usage will no longer be valid.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This further clarifies the requirements of BPC 5500.2(i-k) by specifying the dates when the specific sections of CCR 109.05 will become inactive, and the date when any continuing AIT usage will end. This is beneficial as it clarifies the when candidates can no longer apply, reapply, or utilize the AIT title.

19. Add 16 CCR section 109.05 authority and reference

Purpose: Adopts 16 CCR 109.05 authority and reference statutes to enact this section.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language provides the authority and reference statutes which allow the Board to enact the regulations to govern the application, enforcement, and maintenance of the AIT title.

20. Add 16 CCR section 144 subsection (j)

Purpose: The language in this subsection identifies the fee required to apply for the Architect-in-Training.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This makes it clear to those who are interested in applying for the AIT what the costs for the application will be.

21. Amend 16 CCR section 144 authority and reference

Purpose: The changes to the authority and reference statutes identify the authority given to the Board to charge a fee to apply for the AIT.

Anticipated Benefit/Rationale: This language clarifies the authority and reference statutes to include BPC 5500.2, which authorizes the Board to charge a fee to cover the cost to evaluate whether a candidate meets the requirements to use the AIT title. Adding this information makes it clear where the Board gets its authority from.

Non-substantive edits made after Board approval

Removed reference to BPC 144 in the authority and reference of CCR section 109.05 because it does not pertain to this regulatory package and was added in error.

Rearranged the BPC statutes in the authority and reference sections to be in numerical order.

CCR 109(c) was updated to make it consistent throughout, that the application for an additional term of the AIT title was for four years. A reference was corrected from subsection (f) to subsection (h) to correctly identify the reapplication requirements.

Underlying Data

1. February 26, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda, Relevant Materials, and Minutes
2. Assembly Bill 759 (Valencia, Chapter 380, Statutes of 2025)

Fiscal Impact:

The Board estimates 1,100 AIT applicants will apply annually in years 1 – 5 of implementation and decrease to 1,000 AIT applicants per year thereafter. The Board will incur workload costs and receive revenues as follows:

Workload Costs: The Board estimates workload costs of approximately \$131 per AIT application, which would result in total costs ranging from approximately \$141,000 to

\$176,000 per year and up to \$1,595 million over a ten-year period as follows:

California Architects Board Architects-in-Training — Fiscal Impact (Workload Costs)												
Type	Applicants Per Year	Costs*	Years Ongoing*									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 1 - 5)	1,100	\$131	\$144,100	\$148,423	\$152,876	\$157,462	\$162,186	-	-	-	-	-
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 6 - 10)	1,000	\$156	-	-	-	-	-	\$156,421	\$161,113	\$165,947	\$170,925	\$176,053
Total Costs:			\$144,100	\$148,423	\$152,876	\$157,462	\$162,186	\$156,421	\$161,113	\$165,947	\$170,925	\$1,595,506

*Includes 3 percent annual cost growth factor

Revenues: This proposal establishes a \$131 AIT application fee, which would result in annual revenues of approximately \$144,000 in years 1 – 5 and \$131,000 ongoing thereafter and up to \$1.375 million over a ten-year period as follows:

California Architects Board Architects-in-Training — Fiscal Impact (Revenues)												
Type	Applicants Per Year	Fees	Years Ongoing									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 1 - 5)	1,100	\$131	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	-	-	-	-	-
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 6 - 10)	1,000	\$131	-	-	-	-	-	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000
Total Revenues:			\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$1,375,500

The Board notes, because AB 759 authorizes the AIT title and compliance and because the proposed regulations are limited to the AIT application process (only), any future enforcement-related workload and costs would be a result of current law.

The proposed regulations do not result in costs or savings in federal funding to the state.

Business Impact:

The Board has made the initial determination that the proposed regulations will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses including the inability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations clarify the ability of a candidate to use the AIT title, which does not confer any additional practice authority.

The regulations do not result in additional workload costs for businesses and therefore are not anticipated to result in any negative impacts. However, in the event an architecture firm or business employs an individual seeking the AIT designation and opts to pay the \$131 AIT application fee on behalf of the applicant, the Board indicates the impact would be minimal.

Economic Impact Assessment:

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because it implements an optional title usage that grants no additional practice authority.

It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because it implements an optional title usage that grants no additional practice authority.

It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because it implements an optional title usage that grants no additional practice authority.

This regulatory proposal will benefit the health and welfare of Californians by allowing candidates who have passed at least one examination toward licensure to use a title that clarifies, to the public, they are pursuing an architectural license.

This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety because it does not involve worker safety.

This regulatory proposal does not affect the state's environment because it does not involve the environment.

The Board estimates 1,100 AIT applicants will apply annually in years 1 – 5 of implementation and decrease to 1,000 AIT applicants per year thereafter. The Board estimates annual costs to individuals or businesses of approximately \$144,000 in years 1 – 5 and \$131,000 ongoing thereafter and up to \$1.375 million over a ten-year period follows:

California Architects Board Architects-in-Training — Economic Impact (Costs)													
Type	Applicants Per Year	Fees	Years Ongoing										Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 1 - 5)	1,100	\$131	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	-	-	-	-	-	\$720,500
Architect-in-Training (Yrs 6 - 10)	1,000	\$131	-	-	-	-	-	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$655,000
Total Costs:			\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$144,100	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$1,375,500

Specific Technologies or Equipment:

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

Consideration of Alternatives:

The Board has made an initial determination that 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.

Description of reasonable alternatives to the regulation that would lessen

any adverse impact on small business:

No such alternatives have been proposed, however, the Board welcomes comments from the public.