

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS
DIVISION 2.**

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION CONCERNING:
Architect in Training

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Architects Board (Board) is proposing to take the action described in the Informative Digest below, after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period. A hearing may be requested by making such request in writing addressed to the individuals listed under “Contact Person” in this notice.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Written comments relevant to the action proposed, including those sent by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the addresses listed under “Contact Person” in this Notice, must be **received by the Board at its office no later than Monday August 24, 2026**, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Pursuant to the authority vested by sections 5500.2 and 5526 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret, or make specific BPC sections 5500.2, 5526, 5587, and 5587.5, the Board is considering adopting section 109.05 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Pursuant to the authority vested by sections 5500.02 and 5526 of the BPC, and to implement, interpret, or make specific BPC sections 5500.2 and 5604, the Board is considering amending section 144 of title 16 of the CCR.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST / POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

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 title sections become effective on January 1, 2027, and 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 licensee 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 of Proposal

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following benefits to the health and welfare of California residents:

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 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.

This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety or the state's environment.

Evaluation of Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

During the process of developing this regulatory proposal, the Board has conducted a search of any similar regulations on these topics and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THIS PROPOSED ACTION

FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES

Fiscal Impact on Public Agencies Including Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: 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.

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.

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.

Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

Cost to any Local Agency or School District for which Government Code Sections 17500 - 17630 Require Reimbursement: None.

Mandate Imposed on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

Significant Effect on Housing Costs: None.

BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATES

The Board has made the initial determination that the proposed regulatory action would have no significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

This initial determination is based on the fact that the regulations do not result in additional workload costs to businesses, therefore negative impacts are not anticipated. 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.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business

The Board indicates that a representative private person or business would necessarily

incur minimal costs in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. Individuals opting to apply for the AIT designation or a business paying for the individual will pay a \$131 AIT application fee.

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.

RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT / ANALYSIS:

Impact on Jobs / Businesses

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have any impact on the following:

- 1) Creation or elimination of jobs within California,
- 2) Creation of new businesses or elimination of existing businesses within California, or
- 3) Expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state.

Benefits of Regulation

The Board has determined that this regulatory proposal will have the following effects on the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment:

- This regulatory proposal clarifies that an individual using the AIT title is actively pursuing an architectural license, which will benefit the health and welfare of California residents.
- 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.

Business Reporting Requirements

The regulatory action does not require businesses to file a report with the Board.

Effect on Small Business

The Board does not maintain data to define if any of its licensees are a "small business" as defined in Government Code section 11342.610. However, in the event a small business architecture firm or other small business employs an individual opting for the AIT designation and pays the \$131 AIT application fee on behalf of the applicant, the Board indicates the impact would be minimal.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed; would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposal described in this Notice; or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

Any interested person may submit written comments relevant to the above determinations at the Board's office at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834 during the written comment period, or at the hearing if one is scheduled or requested.

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Board has compiled a record for this regulatory action, which includes the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), proposed regulatory text, and all the information on which this proposal is based. This material is contained in the rulemaking file and is available for public inspection upon request to the contact persons named in this notice.

TEXT OF PROPOSAL

Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, and any document incorporated by reference, and of the initial statement of reasons, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained upon request from the Board at 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments, the Board, upon its own motion or at the request of any interested party, may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal, with the modifications clearly indicated, will be available for review and written comment for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as the Contact Person and will be mailed to those persons who submit written comments or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND RULEMAKING FILE

All the information upon which the proposed regulations are based is contained in the rulemaking file which is available for public inspection by contacting the person named below.

You may obtain a copy of the Final Statement of Reasons once it has been prepared by

making a written request to the Contact Person named below or by accessing the website listed below.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Name: Timothy Rodda
Address: 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
Telephone No.: 279.895.1246
E-Mail Address: timothy.rodde@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Laura Zuniga
Address: 2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
Telephone No.: 916.471.0760
E-Mail Address: laura.zuniga@dca.ca.gov

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET:

Materials regarding this proposal can be found at
https://www.cab.ca.gov/resrcs/laws_regs/prop_reg.shtml

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulations with modifications noted, as well as the Final Statement of Reasons when completed, and modified text, if any, can be accessed through the Board's website at https://www.cab.ca.gov/resrcs/laws_regs/prop_reg.shtml.