TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS
DIVISION 2.
California Architects Board
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION:

Examination Transition Credit

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Architects Board (hereafter 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 December 7, 2026**, or must be received by the Board at the hearing, should one be scheduled.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Pursuant to the authority vested by section(s) 5526, 5550 and 5550.3 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC), and to implement, interpret, or make specific BPC section(s) 5500, 5550 and 5550.3, the Board is considering amending section(s) 118.5, and repealing sections 119.7, and 119.8 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

INFORMATIVE DIGEST / POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

The existing rule in 16 CCR section 118.5 provides the method by which examination credit is granted to candidates when examination versions are updated. The Board updated these sections and added new ones as the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) updated the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) through different versions.

This regulatory proposal will update the section to remove references to CCR sections 119.7 and 119.8 and clarify that candidates who have passed an examination developed by NCARB will receive transitional credit as provided by NCARB. This is being done to remove candidate confusion as to which examination version candidates must take and how they receive credit whenever NCARB releases newer versions of examinations. NCARB is the developer and administrator of the ARE, and the Board provides input and votes on examination's direction. Therefore, the Board believes copying NCARB's transition model and pasting it into regulation is not necessary; rather candidates should use the up to date information available from NCARB.

16 CCR section 119.7 provided the method by which the ARE transitioned from examination 3.1 to 4.0 and identified when candidates would be allowed to take the ARE 4.0, and when ARE 3.1 would no longer be available.

This regulatory proposal will repeal section 119.7 since the proposed amendment to section 118.5 states that candidates will follow NCARB transition plans for the ARE as they have been developed and released. Section 119.7 simply references a previous transition plan that was developed by NCARB making it redundant as a result this section is unnecessary and will be repealed.

16 CCR section 119.8 provided the method by which the ARE transitioned from examination 4.0 to 5.0 and identified when candidates would be allowed to take the ARE 5.0, and when ARE 4.0 would no longer be available.

This regulatory proposal will repeal section 119.8 since the proposed amendment to section 118.5 states that candidates will follow NCARB transition plans for the ARE as they have been developed and released. Section 119.8 simply references a previous transition plan that was developed by NCARB making it redundant as a result this section is unnecessary and will be repealed.

Anticipated Benefits of Proposal

This regulatory proposal does not affect the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, or the state's environment.

The anticipated benefit of the proposed regulation is to clarify how examination credit is carried forward when examination versions change, reducing confusion for candidates. Removing obsolete transition provisions will also make the applicable requirements easier to understand.

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:

There is no fiscal impact to the State in the form of federal funding or any cost or savings to any state agency. This proposal clarifies existing licensure requirements. The Board does not anticipate additional workload or costs resulting from the proposed regulations

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 following:

The regulations do not result in additional workload or costs to businesses and therefore are not anticipated to result in any negative impacts.

Cost Impact on Representative Private Person or Business

The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

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) the creation or elimination of jobs within the state,
2) the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state, or,
3) the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state

Benefits of Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment

The proposed regulation will benefit examination candidates by clarifying examination transition credit and removing obsolete provisions. Because the proposal is limited to these administrative clarifications, the Board does not anticipate effects on the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, or the state's environment.

Business Reporting Requirements

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

Effect on Small Business

The Board has determined that the proposed regulations will not affect small businesses. Although small businesses owned by licensees of the Board may be impacted the Board does not maintain data relating to the number or percentage of licensees who own a small business; therefore, the number or percentage of small businesses that may be impacted cannot be predicted.

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 comments to the Board in writing relevant to the above determinations 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 persons designated in this Notice as the Contact Persons 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 Persons 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:	California Architects Board
	2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834
Telephone No.:	279.895.1246

E-Mail Address: timothy.rodda@dca.ca.gov

The backup contact person is:

Name: Laura Zuniga

Address: California Architects Board

2420 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, California 95834

Telephone No.: 916.471.0760

E-Mail Address: laura.zuniga@dca.ca.gov

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

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.