



1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 655

December 11, 1997 - Introduced by Representative OTTE, by request of Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Geologists, Professional Engineers, Designers and Land Surveyors. Referred to Committee on Consumer Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 443.03 (2) and 443.07 (1) (b); **to renumber and amend** 443.03
2 (1) (b) 1. and 443.03 (1) (b) 2.; **to consolidate, renumber and amend** 443.03
3 (1) (intro.) and (a) and 443.07 (1) (intro.) and (a); and **to amend** 443.07 (2),
4 443.07 (3), 443.07 (5) and 443.09 (5) of the statutes; **relating to:** qualifications
5 for registration as an architect or landscape architect and qualifications for a
6 permit as a designer of engineering systems.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes various changes in the qualifications that a person must satisfy to be registered by the examining board of architects, landscape architects, professional geologists, professional engineers, designers and land surveyors (examining board) as an architect or landscape architect or to receive a permit as a designer of engineering systems. The bill includes the following changes:

Qualifications for registration as an architect

Under current law, an applicant for registration as an architect must have either: 1) a diploma of graduation or a certificate from an approved architectural school or college and at least 2 years of practical experience in the design and construction of buildings; or 2) 7 or more years of experience in architectural work. This bill changes the first alternative by requiring at least 3 years of practical experience in the design and construction of buildings and the 2nd alternative by requiring at least 13 years of experience in architectural work.

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Under current law, the examining board uses specified equivalencies between schooling and experience to determine the number of years of experience in architectural work to which an applicant's education is equivalent. The bill eliminates the specific equivalencies between schooling and experience and instead requires the examining board to determine, for purposes of the 2nd alternative, the amount of experience to which any postsecondary education of an applicant is equivalent. The examining board must then reduce the 13 or more years of experience required by the amount of experience to which the applicant's education is equivalent.

Qualifications for registration as a landscape architect

Under current law, an applicant for registration as a landscape architect must pass a written examination or written and oral examinations. This bill requires the examination or examinations to include questions designed to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people with physical disabilities and of relevant statutes and codes.

Qualifications for a permit as a designer of engineering systems

Under current law, permits granted by the examining board to designers of engineering systems are limited to designated fields and subfields of technology. This bill eliminates the reference to "subfields" and allows the examining board to designate fields of technology only.

Under current law, an applicant for a permit as a designer of engineering systems must have one of the following: 1) 8 or more years of experience in specialized engineering design work and satisfactory completion of a written examination in the relevant field; or 2) if the applicant is at least 35 years old, 12 or more years of experience in the relevant field. In addition, any academic training in engineering technology or participation in an approved apprenticeship program may be considered the equivalent of not more than 4 years of experience. Graduation from a course in a subject other than engineering technology is counted as the equivalent of 2 years of experience.

This bill eliminates the 2nd alternative and changes the first alternative by decreasing from 8 years to 6 years the number of required years of experience. With respect to an applicant who has graduated from a course in a subject other than engineering technology, the examining board may (but is not required to) count that course work as the equivalent of not more than 3 years of experience.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 443.03 (1) (intro.) and (a) of the statutes are consolidated,
2 renumbered 443.03 (intro.) and amended to read:

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1 **443.03 Registration requirements for architects.** (intro.) An applicant
2 for registration as an architect shall submit satisfactory evidence to the examining
3 board: ~~(a) That~~ that he or she has acquired a thorough knowledge of sound
4 construction, building hygiene, architectural design and mathematics; and has one
5 of the following:

6 **SECTION 2.** 443.03 (1) (b) 1. of the statutes is renumbered 443.03 (1) and
7 amended to read:

8 443.03 (1) A diploma of graduation, or a certificate, from an architectural
9 school or college approved by the examining board as of satisfactory standing,
10 together with at least ~~2~~ 3 years' practical experience of a character satisfactory to the
11 examining board in the design and construction of buildings; ~~or,~~

12 **SECTION 3.** 443.03 (1) (b) 2. of the statutes is renumbered 443.03 (1m) and
13 amended to read:

14 443.03 (1m) A specific record of ~~7 or more~~ at least 13 years of experience in
15 architectural work of a character satisfactory to the examining board in the design
16 and construction of buildings. If an applicant under this subsection has completed
17 any postsecondary education, the examining board shall determine the amount of
18 experience to which the applicant's education is equivalent and shall reduce the
19 years of experience required under this subsection by this amount.

20 **SECTION 4.** 443.03 (2) of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 5.** 443.07 (1) (intro.) and (a) of the statutes are consolidated,
22 renumbered 443.07 (1) and amended to read:

23 443.07 (1) An applicant for a permit as a designer shall submit evidence
24 satisfactory to the board indicating that he or she is competent to be in charge of such
25 ~~work as follows:~~ ~~(a) A~~ has a specific record of ~~8~~ 6 years or more of experience in

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1 specialized engineering design work and ~~the satisfactory completion of~~ shall pass a
2 written examination in the field ~~or branch~~, as determined by the board, in which
3 certification is sought; ~~or~~.

4 **SECTION 6.** 443.07 (1) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 7.** 443.07 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 443.07 (2) Completion of technological academic training or apprenticeship
7 program approved by the board may be considered equivalent to experience, but
8 should not exceed a total of 4 years. The successful completion of each year of
9 academic work without graduation shall be equivalent to one year of experience.
10 Graduation from a course other than engineering technology ~~shall~~ may not be
11 equivalent to ~~2 more than 3~~ years of experience under this subsection.

12 **SECTION 8.** 443.07 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 443.07 (3) Permits shall be granted, designated and limited to the fields and
14 subfields of technology as are determined by the examining board and recognized in
15 engineering design practice. Any person holding a permit may prepare plans and
16 specifications and perform consultation, investigation and evaluation in connection
17 with the making of plans and specifications, within the scope of the permit,
18 notwithstanding that such activity constitutes the practice of architecture or
19 professional engineering under this chapter.

20 **SECTION 9.** 443.07 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 443.07 (5) The permit shall, on its face, restrict the holder thereof to the specific
22 field ~~and subfields~~ of designing in which the permittee acquired his or her experience
23 in designing. If qualified in more than one type of designing, persons may receive
24 permits for more than one field ~~or subfield~~ of designing as may be determined by the
25 examining board.

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1 **SECTION 10.** 443.09 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 443.09 (5) Written or written and oral examinations shall be held at such time
3 and place as the examining board determines. The scope of the examinations and
4 the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the examining board with special
5 reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise architectural, landscape
6 architectural, geological or engineering work, which shall promote the public welfare
7 and ensure the safety of life, health and property. The architect, landscape architect
8 and professional engineering examination or examinations shall include questions
9 which require applicants to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people
10 with physical disabilities and of the relevant statutes and codes. Such questions
11 shall be developed by the examining board in consultation with the department of
12 commerce. The examination for candidates under s. 443.04 (1) (c) shall be the
13 principles and practice examination which requires the applicant to demonstrate the
14 ability to apply engineering principles and judgment to problems in general
15 engineering disciplines and to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people
16 with physical disabilities and the relevant statutes, rules and regulations. A
17 candidate failing an examination may, upon application and payment of the required
18 reexamination fee, be examined again by the examining board. No restrictions may
19 be placed on the number of times an unsuccessful candidate may be reexamined,
20 except that after failure of 3 reexaminations, the examining board may require a
21 one-year waiting period before further reexamination.

22 **SECTION 11. Initial applicability.**

23 (1) This act first applies to applications for a credential submitted to the
24 examining board of architects, landscape architects, professional geologists,

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1 professional engineers, designers and land surveyors on the effective date of this
2 subsection.

3 (END)