

*Maddison Gibbons
Legislative Intern
Office of Senator Melony G. Griffith*

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Senate Bill 93 - Business Occupations and Professions – Architects – Scope of Licensure

Testimony (Favorable)

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am pleased to present Senate Bill 93, which raises the threshold of costs required for repairs, for which a person is required to employ a licensed architect. I would like to thank Delegate Williams as well for introducing this bill and the work she has done for local businesses.

This bill comes as a result of community businesses and homeowners, who tend to struggle with simple alterations and remodeling, due to the existing financial threshold under current law. The current language, although certainly necessary for large structural repairs, simultaneously prevents many from making necessary changes to a structure, because of the affordability of hiring an architect. This version will allow much more room for individuals to make repairs without having the extra expense of hiring an architect.

SB 93 will:

- Increase the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials from \$5,000.00 to \$25,000.00 for an alteration, which requires to employ a licensed architect.
- Alters the specific circumstances under which a person is not required to employ a licensed architect.

This bill does not carry any financial burden to the state or local governments, but it has potentially meaningful effects on Maryland business and homeowners. In today's time businesses want to offer the best experience to their customers whether that is through design or technology. Senate Bill 93 will allow more Marylanders to make investments into their businesses and properties that will allow them to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 93. I respectfully request a favorable report.