



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

1 February 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair of the Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0093
Business Occupations and Professions - Architects - Scope of Licensure

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

On behalf of AIA Maryland and the nearly 2,000 Architects we represent, we ask for your support of SB 0093 which modifies regulations that define the scope or circumstances for which a person(s) or entity must employ a licensed architect. Upon due consideration, substantive engaged discussion, and collaborative agreement between AIA Maryland, Senator Griffith, Delegate Williams, DLLR, and affected constituents, AIA Maryland agrees and supports an increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000, the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for minor alterations and limited scope or circumstances, as defined under SB 0093; or up to \$10,000, the maximum estimated cost in labor and materials for alterations and repairs on specific systemic scope or circumstances, as defined under SB 0093.

Originally, AIA Maryland had reservations that, if the initial legislation that was presented in 2020 was adopted, harm might come to the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of our communities. The proposed legislation as defined under SB 0093 remedies those concerns by reasonably limiting the threshold amounts, clearly stating the acceptable types of scope that would be permitted without the engagement of a licensed professional Architect but maintains the assurance of full compliance with the Maryland Rehabilitation Code, and all other current building, life safety and accessibility codes and regulations.

AIA Maryland recognizes that the original limit of \$5000 was codified roughly three decades ago. Adjusting for inflation and in consideration of the health, safety and welfare of Maryland's citizens, we believe the limits as defined under HB 0294 are reasonable. AIA Maryland is also pleased that the bill maintains the clause that a Code Official, or a designated Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), may require such alterations or repairs to be documented and sealed by a licensed Architect, and that such a requirement would take precedence over the bill's provisions.

Architects care deeply about the quality of Maryland's built environment, particularly, those buildings and environments that require continued alterations, rehabilitation, and maintenance. AIA Maryland also cares deeply about the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents. We therefore respectfully ask your committee to vote in favor of SB 0093.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Bailey, AIA
Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Senator Melony Griffith

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