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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

Testimony of Senator Melony G. Griffith (Favorable)

Good afternoon, Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am requesting a favorable report Senate Bill 93, also known as Business Occupations and Professions - Architects - Scope of Licensure.

Background

The current law puts a \$5,000 cap on the cost of updates to an existing building before having to hire an architect. Once the cap is exceeded, a licensed architect sign off on the building plans before being able to obtain a permit. Hiring an architect could cost at least \$5,000 or more, which in some cases end up costing more than the actual project.

SB 93

The bill raises the cap on home repairs to \$25,000, allowing residents to make repairs without having to hire an architect. (Unless needed to comply with the Maryland Building Performance Standards or to provide for the health and safety of the public.) The language of the bill specifies which kind of changes would be allowed under the new statute, and requiring residents to adhere to the guidelines in the Maryland Rehabilitation Code.

I appreciate your consideration and a favorable report.