



## Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GOVERNOR SIGNS ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS BILL INTO LAW

Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 225 into law on Friday, March 21, 2008. Sponsored by Senator Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster), the new law updates and modifies state laws that regulate architects and landscape architects.

Among the changes:

- Firm ownership requirements modified: Under current Ohio law, a majority of owners of architecture and landscape architecture firms must be registered in Ohio as design professionals even if they are already registered in other states. SB 225 allows owners of firms to be registered design professionals in any state. An Ohio-registered individual will still be required to be in responsible control of the firm's professional activities.
- The bill eliminates the requirement that a landscape architect must be a member of a firm's board of directors.
- SB 225 recognizes Employee Stock Ownership Plans as a form of firm ownership. Non-licensed employees are currently prohibited from owning part of their company.
- A new category of Emeritus Architect is also created by the bill. Requested by many retired architects, an Emeritus category will exempt fully retired, non-practicing architects from the Mandatory Continuing Education requirement. Emeritus Architects who maintain their license will be permitted to continue use of the title Architect.
- The new law permits the Board to create rules permitting use of the titles, "Intern Architect" and "Architectural Intern".
- The board's name has changed and will be known as the Architects Board. The name of the Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners remains unchanged.
- The bill grants the boards authority to charge fees for returned checks, a cost that is currently absorbed by the board.

The bill will go into effect in 90 days, after which rules implementing the new law will be filed. A public hearing, yet to be scheduled, will be held on the rules. It is expected that the rules will be in place in early September. A copy of the bill as available on the Ohio General Assembly website, <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/search.cfm>

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### About the Ohio Architects Board:

The Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects, appointed to a leadership role in the profession of architecture, is dedicated to the promotion and protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by:

- Establishing and maintaining high standard for architectural registration, practice and professional conduct;
- Proactively enforcing the laws and rules governing the practice of architecture;
- Communicating with and educating the public and the profession concerning the practice of architecture.