

Agency Response to Economic Impact Analysis Performed by the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget:

Generally concur. While we concur with the approval, we do not concur with the statement that the proposed change will be burdensome to the affected individuals (graduates from an LAAB accredited program) nor do we concur with the suggestion that this change will limit the number of certified practitioners. Of the 20 individuals who obtained certification via examination during the time period of January 1, 2003, through August 11, 2004, 17 possessed an LAAB accredited degree in landscape architecture. Of the 17 with the LAAB accredited degree, the amount of time that elapsed between their graduation from the LAAB accredited degree program and the issue date of their certificate after successfully completing the examination ranged from 3 years, 3 months, to 16 years, 8 months, with an average amount of time being 6 years, 8 months. Therefore, the requirement for those landscape architect applicants who possess an LAAB accredited degree in landscape architecture to have three years of acceptable experience in order to become certified is currently being met by Virginia candidates.

The need for codifying the requirement is that it would help these candidates in obtaining certification or licensure in other jurisdictions which have an experience requirement. Having Virginia's requirements comparable with other jurisdictions would allow Virginia certificate holders to obtain certification/licensure in other states without having to meet additional experience requirements. Of the 45 jurisdictions (other than Virginia) which currently regulate landscape architecture (of which 37 are practice acts and 8 are title acts), for those persons holding a bachelors degree: 6 jurisdictions require no experience; 5 require 1 year of experience; 17 require 2 years of experience; 13 require 3 years of experience; and 4 require 4 years of experience. Instituting an experience requirement would bring Virginia's requirements in line with the majority of other jurisdictions that regulate landscape architecture.

Finally, while the benefits from the proposed change may not be great, neither is the cost nor the requirements being placed on potential regulants as they are already satisfying the experience requirement prior to obtaining certification.