

Dear Committee Members,

The NC Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers (the “Board”) hereby submits this report on its use of regulatory flexibility, in accordance with Section 4E.1 of Session Law 2024-53.

Board Overview

The Board is an occupational licensing board authorized by Chapter 93B of the North Carolina General Statutes and established under Chapter 83A of the North Carolina General Statutes to maintain minimum standards for services provided by architects and registered interior designers. The Board formally consists of ten members appointed by the Governor. The Board's operations are funded primarily through license and registration application and renewal fees.

Session Law 2024-53

Promulgated in October 2024, Session Law 2024-53 provides in Section 4E.1(b) that:

Notwithstanding any other provision of State law, if a State agency determines that, due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene in the affected area, it is in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the affected area, the agency shall do all of the following:

- (1) Delay the renewal dates of employment-related certifications issued by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.
- (2) Delay or modify any educational or examination requirements for employment-related certifications implemented by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.

In this legislation, the General Assembly directed each State agency in the executive branch of government in North Carolina, no later than March 1, 2025, to report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on its use of regulatory flexibility under this Section 4E.

Board Implementation of Session Law 2024-53

Since October 2024, the Board has implemented the directives of SL 2024-53 by promulgating an emergency rule to alleviate the burden of obtaining 12 hours of continuing education for those individuals residing in affected areas, as defined by SL 2024-53. Specifically, 21 NCAC 02 .0911 reduces the amount of required continuing education hours by fifty percent (50%) as follows:

1. Every licensee and registrant residing in the areas set forth in Senate Bill 743 shall obtain a minimum of six contact hours of continuing education for each calendar year. "Contact Hour" means 50 minutes contact.
2. The contact hours shall be obtained in structured educational activities intended to increase or update the architect's or registered interior designer's knowledge and competence in technical and professional architectural and interior design subjects related

to safeguarding public health, safety, and welfare ("HSW"). "Structured educational activities" are activities in which at least 75 percent of an activity's content and instructional time is devoted to HSW subjects related to the practice of architecture, including courses of study or other activities under the areas identified as HSW by individuals or organizations, whether delivered by direct contact or distance learning methods.

3. Licensees and registrants shall not carry forward any contact hours into the subsequent period.
4. Licensees and registrants shall certify completion of the contact hours for the previous calendar year with annual renewal.

Please contact me directly at cathe@ncbarch.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cathe M. Monte Carlo-Evans

Catherine M. Monte Carlo-Evans

Executive Director

NC Board of Architecture & Registered Interior Designers

919-268-7293

919-268-1610 direct

434 Fayetteville Street

Suite 2005

Raleigh, NC 27601