

Tracie Reed
Portland
LD 1393

I'm a licensed architect in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and business owner with a practice based in Portland, Maine. Our profession is ever-changing and our charge as professionals is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public with our buildings. As research, regulations and materials evolve it is critical that practitioners continuously study these changes for the welfare of our clients, occupants and first responders.

Many architects enjoy learning and improving upon our work and continuously study. However, this is not universally true. It is a basic form of consumer protection in such an evolving industry to ensure we are knowledgeable about the issues and regulations impacting our projects. My architects in Maine are also licensed in neighboring states which mandate continuing education - reporting this when we renew our Maine licenses is not an unusual burden for us.

My concern about the legislation is the exemption for retired architects. There is no way for a consumer to know if a 'retired' architect with a stamp decides to take on a new project - but may have out-of-date understanding of regulations, and best practices in the industry. A retired licensed architect is an oxymoron. If you are retired you are not practicing and should not be using your stamp. To the consumer there is no distinction. It is similar to a doctor or lawyer who is holding a license but not staying up to date on changes in their industries. There are many free or low-cost CEU options available. There is no excuse to someone who is practicing in our profession (i.e. not retired) not to continue to stay abreast of current developments. In fact, the safety of occupants and first responders depends on it.

Thank you for your consideration.