



## Testimony in Support

### *LD 1393, An Act to Require Continuing Education for Licensed Architects*

April 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Labor Committee

Chairman Tipping, Chairwoman Roeder, and Honorable Members of the Labor Committee;

My name is Elizabeth Frazier, and I am pleased to testify today in support of LD 1393, An Act to Require Continuing Education for Licensed Architects, on behalf of my client, the Maine Chapter of American Institute of Architects (AIA Maine). This bill would require licensed Maine architects to receive at least 12 health, safety, and welfare educational unit hours, and to require licensed Maine architects to self-certify compliance with the requirement upon renewal of the license.

We wish to start by thanking our sponsor, Representative Roberts, for bringing this bill forward, and for her work on licensing matters generally. We are appreciative of her focus on consumer protection in professional licensing. We also wish to thank the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (DPFR) for their work in overseeing and licensing architects in collaboration with the Board of Licensure for Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. We appreciate the Department's efforts in helping maintain the integrity of our profession.

AIA Maine supports requiring CEU's for licensed architects because it is consistent with our belief that the practice of architecture and the construction of buildings is better with appropriate professional regulations. LD 1393 is a small but important step toward maintaining the health, safety and welfare for Maine residents as new building methods and priorities arise. Architects design projects from school construction to hospital renovation, single-family and multi-family home development, university campuses, public recreational areas, and more. Other professionals involved in these types of projects, including real estate agents, engineers, accountants, and lawyers – all require CEU's.

To underline the timeliness and need for the CEU requirement now, it is helpful to understand the State's current landscape of building and housing creation. You may be aware that the Governor's Office of Innovation and the Future (GOPIF), Maine State Housing Association (MSHA), and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) recently worked on a series of reports to analyze the need and develop a roadmap to success for housing in Maine. Those reports have identified that Maine needs between 74,000 and 86,000 units of new housing constructed by 2030 in order to meet the current gap and fill the anticipated need.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> State of Maine Housing Production Needs Study, HR&A Advisors, October, 2023, 8, available at [https://mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/state-of-maine-housing-production-needs-study\\_full\\_final-v2.pdf](https://mainehousing.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/state-of-maine-housing-production-needs-study_full_final-v2.pdf) (last accessed April 8, 2025).

The roadmap to achieving the construction of these units identified a series of recommendations to lower barriers to housing and promote innovative construction modalities. Recommendation 3.7 specifically advises the state to establish a working group (with architects, among others) to evaluate the potential for modular construction, cross-laminated timber (CLT), and 3d printing to have real cost-savings at scale in Maine. As Maine looks to enable more innovative building solutions, curb climate impacts, and weatherize to save on energy costs, it is essential for architects to stay up-to-date and engaged in learning about impacts on the practice.<sup>2</sup>

Another example of the importance of requiring CEUs today is the evolving Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC). Yesterday, April 7, Maine's updated codes went into effect. These codes include an update from the 2015 to the 2021 International Building, Commercial, Existing Building, and Energy Conservation Codes. These codes guide standards for everything from safety and egress design to the required thickness of insulation. The significant jump from the 2015 to the 2021 code version also means that there may be changes that are new to some practicing architects. The timing of the new code update is yet another reason for the current legislature to move to require CEU's for licensed architects.

Finally, it is important for Maine licensed architects to be in step with our neighboring states. Today, Maine is the only state in New England that does not require CEU's to maintain an architectural license. In fact, Maine is one of only four states in the country that does not require CEU's. The other states are Arizona, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. As a policy leader in housing creation, climate resiliency, and consumer protection, Maine should not have a lesser standard for the professional licensure of architects.

AIA Maine hopes the committee sees the importance and sensibility in adopting CEU's for licensed Maine architects so that our profession can continue to maintain its excellence, and so that we don't fall out of step with other states.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important policy initiative, and for all you do for the State of Maine.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Frazier, on behalf of AIA Maine

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<sup>2</sup> *A Roadmap for the Future of Housing Production in Maine*, HR&A Advisors, January, 2025, 60, 69, available at [https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov/decd/files/inline-files/A%20Roadmap%20for%20the%20Future%20of%20Housing%20Production%20in%20Maine\\_January%202025\\_V2.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov/decd/files/inline-files/A%20Roadmap%20for%20the%20Future%20of%20Housing%20Production%20in%20Maine_January%202025_V2.pdf) (last accessed April 8, 2025).