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April 8, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Tiffany Roberts presenting

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

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor

Good afternoon, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. I am Tiffany Roberts, and I represent House District 149, which includes parts of North and South Berwick. I am pleased to be here today to present **LD 1393, An Act to Require Continuing Education for Licensed Architects**.

This bill proposes a common-sense, long-overdue update to Maine's professional licensing standards. It would require licensed architects to complete a minimum of 12 hours of continuing education annually in health, safety, and welfare – requirements overseen by the Maine State Board for Licensure of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers.

During my tenure in the legislature, I've worked extensively on issues surrounding professional licensing, workforce development, and quality standards across sectors. This bill reflects the kind of responsible, thoughtful policy that ensures Maine's licensed professionals are held to modern, practical standards that support public safety and professional excellence.

Maine is currently one of only four states, alongside Arizona, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania, that does not require continuing education for architects. This puts us out of step not only with New England but with virtually every state on the East Coast. It diminishes the competitive standing of our architects and the perceived rigor of our licensing process. It creates unnecessary risk in a profession where safety, design integrity, and regulatory knowledge are essential.

We ask many architects to help weatherize our homes, construct safe and accessible public buildings, and implement design practices that meet the challenges of our changing climate. As we lean into smart growth across our state, from rural downtown revitalization to large-scale housing development, architects must be equipped with current knowledge and tools. Continuing education ensures this.

This bill is narrowly tailored and includes appropriate exemptions. It exempts retired architects from active practice and provides a two-year grace period for newly licensed architects. It also

allows the licensing board to set clear guidelines for course approval and tracking, minimizing administrative burden.

Requiring continuing education is not a radical step. It's something real estate agents, engineers, accountants, and lawyers are already required to do. These are all professions that architects collaborate with, and there's no good reason why architects should be the exception.

AIA Maine, the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects, supports this bill. They know firsthand that ongoing learning leads to stronger design, better client outcomes, and a safer built environment.

This legislation ensures quality, safety, and professionalism in one of our most critical sectors. It aligns with Maine's values and our long-term, sustainable growth vision. I urge you to support LD 1393 and vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.