MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2060

H.P. 1322

House of Representatives, December 13, 2023

An Act to Amend Licensing Requirements for Landscape Architects

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 11, 2023. Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, current law does not allow applicants for licensure in this State as landscape 4 architects to sit for the required examination before completing all of the required education 5 and years of practical experience; and 6 Whereas, current law creates a discrepancy, with no apparent reason or justification, between the licensing requirements for landscape architects and the licensing requirements 7 8 for architects; and 9 Whereas, current law thus creates an additional barrier for potential applicants for licensure as landscape architects to take the examination; and 10 11 Whereas, the examination vendor has temporarily agreed to review education and experience qualifications for examination candidates through 2024 and has asked that this 12 13 issue be addressed as soon as possible; and 14 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 16 17 therefore, 18 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §220, sub-§2, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c. 415, 19 20 Pt. A, §16, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read: 21 (1) To Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, to be qualified for admission to the examination a license to practice landscape architecture in this State, an 22 applicant must submit evidence to the board that the applicant has passed an 23 examination administered by a national council of landscape architectural 24 25 registration boards or an equivalent examination specified by board rule and: 26 (a) The applicant has completed a course of study in a school or college of landscape architecture approved by the board, with graduation evidenced by a 27 28 diploma setting forth a satisfactory degree, and 2 years of practical experience 29 in landscape architectural work of a grade and character satisfactory to as 30 prescribed by the board by rule; or 31 (b) The applicant has training or practical experience, or a combination of both, that in the opinion of the board is fully equivalent to that required in 32 33 division (a). Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation 34 takes effect when approved. 35 **SUMMARY** 36 37 This bill aligns the licensure requirements for applicants for the landscape architect license with those for architects and removes the requirement that an applicant must 38 39 complete both the education and experience requirements before being qualified to take the 40 required examination. The bill also authorizes the Maine State Board for Licensure of 41 Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers to specify by rule the required

1 amount of practical experience that an applicant for licensure as a landscape architect must complete before obtaining a license.