



**To:** Senator Lynn and Members of the Commerce Committee

**From:** American Institute of Architects Kansas Chapter

**Re:** SB 366

**Date:** February 14, 2020

My name is Michael Grogan, President-Elect, for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Kansas chapter and an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University Department of Architecture. Our organization opposes SB 366 as written. Overall, this bill serves to undermine the ability of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions (who regulate architects among others) to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Our profession designs public institutions, like schools, hospitals, and other publicly used structures. Collectively, we are responsible for the integrity and safety of our public and private spaces. Professional licensing is an important indicator of a baseline level of expertise and qualification that helps protect Kansans from unqualified practitioners.

According to this bill, an applicant will be issued a temporary license as long as he or she is licensed in another state. The applicant does not have to meet the Kansas qualifications to start practicing. The requirement is that he or she simultaneously works to meet the licensing requirements of Kansas. The only exception from the requirement of issuing a temporary license is a finding from the board that this person would put the public's safety at risk. This undermines the Kansas standards and prioritizes out of state applicants over Kansas residents who wish to obtain a license in architecture.

Additionally, the bill is directed toward speed rather than the health, safety and welfare of Kansans. The expedited timeline for issuing a license in ten business days is impossibly short to make a meaningful review of an application, let alone an analysis of all the other jurisdictions' licensing requirements. After the tenth day if an issue has not yet been identified, a temporary license shall be issued. Again, this does not protect Kansans.

In conclusion, this proposal attempts to solve a problem that doesn't exist. An architect who is not yet licensed in Kansas can practice under direct supervision of a licensed architect immediately upon relocation to our state while pursuing their own license. This bill does not create jobs or revenue in Kansas, but rather will add unnecessary financial burden to all members of our profession seeking a license in order for the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions to satisfy the impossibly short deadline requirements of this bill and analysis of all 49 states' licensing requirements.

Under the existing statutes that govern our profession, there are no barriers to a qualified individual moving to Kansas and immediately earning a livelihood. Please exempt architects from this bill.