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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ORIGINAL DATE** 2/12/2025

**SPONSOR** Campos

**BILL**  
**NUMBER** Senate Bill 61

**SHORT TITLE** Landscape Architect Licensure

**ANALYST** Montano

### REVENUE\* (dollars in thousands)

Type	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Fee	No fiscal impact	Indeterminate but minimal gain	Indeterminate but minimal gain	Indeterminate but minimal gain	Indeterminate but minimal gain	Recurring	Board of Landscape Architects Fund

Parenttheses ( ) indicate revenue decreases.  
 \*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
RLD	No fiscal impact	\$40.0	No fiscal impact	\$40.0	Nonrecurring	Board of Landscape Architects Fund

Parenttheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.  
 \*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From  
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Senate Bill 61

Senate Bill 61 (SB61) amends the Landscape Architects Act by modifying the experience requirements for landscape architect licensure in New Mexico. The bill lowers the required minimum years of experience for applicants without a degree from ten years to eight years. It also revises the experience requirements for applicants with related degrees, increasing the required practical experience for those who graduate from a related field from five years to six years.

Additionally, SB61 grants the Board of Landscape Architects authority to increase the required years of experience for all applicants—whether they hold a degree or not—through rulemaking.

This provision allows the board to align New Mexico’s licensure requirements with national model legislation or accreditation standards as they evolve over time.

The bill maintains existing provisions that allow applicants to substitute formal education for portions of the required experience. For example, each year of study in an accredited landscape architecture program may replace one year of required practical experience, and a bachelor’s degree from any field may be accepted in lieu of two years of experience. These changes aim to modernize New Mexico’s licensure requirements while still ensuring that landscape architects meet professional competency standards.

The effective date of the legislation is June 20, 2025.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) asserts the department will need to update their NM plus licensing system with the implementation of SB61. To accurately update the system, RLD will be required to contract a professional. The fee to contract the professionals and implement the required updates to the licensing system should roughly \$40 thousand in non-recurring costs.

RLD is expecting that eliminating the one year of practical experience requirements should increase revenue by allowing more people to be able to be licensed under the Board of Landscape Architects. However, board has generated an average of only \$38 thousand in license fees per year over the last four years. Any revenue increase associated with SB61 is therefore likely to be minimal.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

RLD provides commentary on behalf of the Board of Landscape Architects:

The board has indicated strong support for the bill, which is an effort to align licensure standards for landscape architects nationwide. This effort to create a more uniform standard is supported by the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and other allied professional councils. This bill reduces barriers to licensure while still protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. It should also ease the administrative process for the Board and RLD staff. These goals are accomplished by reducing the minimum years of experience required for licensure without a degree from ten (10) years to eight (8) years and clarifying language for licensing landscape architects. The bill provides multiple clear pathways to licensure making the licensing process easier administratively for the board and providing clarity for applicants seeking licensure in New Mexico. Aligning with national standards will allow licensees relocating to New Mexico to more quickly and efficiently begin working in the state.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SB61 would make the Board conduct an administrative rulemaking process to adopt specific rules that are in accordance with the requirements and bylaws of the bill. The agency would also be expected to update the NM plus licensing system to account for these changes.

NM/hj/SL2