

LFC Requester:

Noah Montano

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

Analysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date January 23, 2025

Bill No: SB 61

Sponsor: Pete Campos
Short Title: Landscape Architect Licensure

Agency Name and Code Number: Regulation and Licensing Department - 420

Person Writing: Jen Rodriguez
Phone: 505.795.3250 **Email:** Jennifer.rodgers@rld.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
	Unknown*	Unknown*	Recurring	Board of Landscape Architects

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

* It is anticipated there will be an overall increase in licensure revenue due to the bill resulting in more individuals being licensed in this field over time, but it is not possible to predict what the increase in licensure revenue funds will be.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	40	N/A	40	N/A	Board of Landscape Architects

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 61 (SB61)

SB61 amends the Landscape Architects Act, Sections 61-24B-1 through 17 NMSA 1978 (Act), specifically at Section 8, “Qualifications for Registration.” First, SB61 eliminates the requirement of at least one (1) year of practical experience to be “under the supervision of a landscape architect” for all four (4) pathways for landscape architect registration. Second, it increases the practical experience for graduates of a field related to landscape architecture from five (5) to six (6) years. Third, it reduces the number of years of practical experience for a licensee without a degree in, or related to, landscape architecture from ten (10) to eight (8) years. Finally, it authorizes the Board of Landscape Architects (Board) to increase the number of years of experience in rule to meet national model legislation or accreditation standards.

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

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NOTE 1: A direct fiscal impact anticipated for the Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD) if SB 61 is enacted would be for the necessary additions and updates that would have to be made to the NM Plus online licensing system that is utilized by the RLD for all licensing under the Act. Contracting fees for information technology development and implementation of the necessary changes to the NM Plus licensing system are estimated to be forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in FY26.

NOTE 2: By eliminating the requirement that at least one (1) year of practical experience be provided by a registered landscape architect and decreasing the number of years of practical experience for applicants who do not have a landscape architecture degree, it can be assumed that there will be an increase in overall applicants and qualifying registrants, increasing the overall number of licensees and therefore increasing overall licensure fee revenue. However, it is not possible at this time to calculate any potential annual licensure fee increase accurately.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

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

As noted in the “Fiscal Implications” section (above) enactment of SB61 would necessitate an administrative rulemaking process to be conducted by the Board to adopt rules in accordance with the requirements, procedures and bylaws of the compact and require an enhancement to the current NM Plus online licensing system that is expected to involve contracting expenses of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) in FY26.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo. There would be no improved efficiencies for the licensing process of the Board of Landscape Architects and no reduction in the number of years of experience requirements for applicants seeking licensure in New Mexico. If the legislation fails to pass, the Board will continue current operations.

AMENDMENTS