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March 17, 2020

The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) within the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) would like to inform you that the new Architects – General Rules were effective as of February 20, 2020. A summary of notable changes is below. The summary is not intended to provide a comprehensive listing of all changes or current requirements. Licensees should review the rules and statute for a complete understanding of all applicable requirements.

Summary: The rules revise the definitions of terms used in the rules, revise the education, experience, and examination requirements that must be satisfied to receive a license, adopt by reference a standard of professional conduct that is acceptable to the board, and clarify the requirements pertaining to the seal of an architect. In addition, a newly added rule outlines relicensure requirements and updated continuing education requirements reflect subjects and activities that are acceptable to the board.

R 339.15101 adds definitions to clarify the meaning of terms used in the proposed rules.

R 339.15201 identifies the accreditation that must be held by an educational program granting degrees that are acceptable for licensure, and provides transparency regarding the criteria that is used for determining whether a degree granted by a nonaccredited educational program is acceptable for licensure.

R 339.15202 requires a certificate of completion of any NCARB internship program to satisfy the experience requirement for licensure. It ensures broad acceptability of NCARB internship programs in satisfaction of the experience requirements under the act.

R 339.15204 requires an applicant for an architect license to give proof of obtaining a passing score as determined by NCARB on the NCARB Architectural Registration Examination (ARE). It clarifies that passing each division of ARE is necessary.

R 339.15304 clarifies the different requirements for relicensure for licensees whose license has lapsed for less than 3 years and for licensees whose license has lapsed for 3 years or more.

R 339.15401 updates and clarifies the standards of practice and professional conduct that are set by the board. It adopts by reference the NCARB model rules of conduct.

R 339.15404 clarifies the requirements about the design and use of the seal of an architect.

R 339.15501 supplies greater clarity of the requirements for license renewal and adds requirements about a request for a continuing education waiver.

R 339.15502 names activities that qualify for continuing education, the needed documentation to prove completion of the activity upon audit, and the limitations for receiving credit in qualifying continuing education activities.

R 339.15506 provides updated subjects that are consistent with recommended subjects by NCARB and relied upon by other states.

A complete copy of the new rules can be found on our website at www.michigan.gov/bpl.

Should you have specific questions regarding this email communication or have further questions, please contact our office at **517-541-9288** or email to BPLHELP@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Licensing Division
Bureau of Professional Licensing