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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/22/07

SPONSOR Harrison LAST UPDATED _____ HB 128

SHORT TITLE Landscape Architect Certification SB _____

ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
	\$.01		recurring	landscape architects fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Responses Received From
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 128 amends Section 61-24B-3 NMSA 1978 and proposes a new professional designation called the “Landscape Architect in Training” to recognize individuals who have completed the education requirements, have passed the Board’s examination for a landscape architect in training certificate and are in the process of gaining practical experience. HB 128 clarifies the educational qualifications for registration for graduates from an accredited or non-accredited school, college or university; creates an additional avenue to allow a graduate in a related field of study to be registered; and creates additional supervised practical experience requirements depending upon path chosen.

House Bill 128 further enacts Section 61-24B-7 NMSA 1978 allowing the Landscape Architect Board to appropriately grant, deny, renew, suspend or revoke landscape architect in training certificates in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Licensing Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 128 requires the Board of Landscape Architects establish an initial and renewal fee for landscape architect in training certificates in an amount not to exceed two hundred dollars. All funds collected under the Landscape Architects Act are credited to the landscape architects fund. All amounts paid into the landscape architects fund is used only for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the Landscape Architects Act. All money unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year will remain in the landscape architects fund for use in accordance with the provisions of the Landscape Architects Act. This revenue over time ought to cover any additional costs of processing and administering licenses and certifications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Current statute allows graduates from a minimum four-year accredited program with three years practical experience register for the Landscape Architect Exam, with the additional masters degree in landscape architecture accepted in lieu of one year practical experience. New language allows for graduates from any accredited program in landscape architecture fulfill the education requirements for licensure and reduces the practical experience requirement to two years for these graduates. Graduates from non-accredited programs must at a minimum hold a four-year bachelor's degree or two-year masters degree with four years practical experience. A new section allows graduates of related fields of study from schools with a minimum four-year degree curriculum or two-year master's degree curriculum and with five years practical experience fulfill the requirements for registration. At least one-year of the practical experience requirement must be under the supervision of a landscape architect no matter which track is used.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Landscape Architects' Board will be required to develop a new examination for Landscape Architect in Training certification and schedule examinations at least yearly.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

It is unclear if the practical experience requirement for licensure is for full time activity.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The change in statute language within HB 128 will enable students who graduate from the University of New Mexico's accredited three-year Masters in Landscape Architecture program register for the Landscape Architecture exam and obtain their license.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

There may be reduced opportunities for individuals to become licensed as Landscape Architects in New Mexico.

AHO/mt