



**WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

**MAC WARNER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

**eFILED**

8/22/2019 4:00:11 PM

Office of West Virginia  
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

AGENCY: Landscape Architects

TITLE-SERIES: 9-05

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: No Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: Consideration of Prior Criminal Convictions In  
Initial Licensure Determinations

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §30-1-24 §30-22-7

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 09/22/2019 12:00  
midnight

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Kendra Zamora

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PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

To consider prior criminal convictions for an initial license.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN THE RULE AND A STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE:

Passage of H.B. 118 during special session

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

N/A

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

N/A

C. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2019 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2020 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost			
Personal Services			
Current Expenses			
Repairs and Alterations			
Assets			
Other			
2. Estimated Total Revenues			

D. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

N/A

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Kendra D Zamora -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

TITLE 9  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WV BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SERIES 5

CONSIDERATION OF PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS IN INITIAL LICENSURE  
DETERMINATIONS

**§9-5-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes procedures for consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §30-1-24, and W. Va. Code §30-22-7.

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon the expiration of five (5) years from final filing date.

**§9-5-2. Definitions.**

2.1. "Board" means the Landscape Architect Board established pursuant to W.Va. Code §30-22-1 et seq.

2.2 "Initial license" means obtaining a license in West Virginia for the practice of landscape architecture for the first time.

2.3. "License" or "licensure" means the official authorization by the board to engage in the practice of landscape architecture.

2.4. "Unreversed," as that term refers to a criminal conviction, means that a conviction has not been set aside, vacated, pardoned, or expunged.

**§9-5-3. Rational nexus to the practice of Landscape Architect.**

3.1. The Board may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remain unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the practice of landscape architecture. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to landscape architecture, the board shall consider a minimum:

3.1.a. The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

3.1.b. The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

3.1.c. The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of a licensed landscape architect; and

3.1.d. Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

**§9-5-4. Application after denial.**

4.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of the W.Va. Code to the contrary, if an applicant has been denied licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the board shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

4.1.a. A period of five (5) years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

4.1.b. The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

4.1.c. The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the board on a case by case basis.

**§9-5-5 Petition for licensure eligibility determination.**

5.1. An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the board at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license.

5.2. The petition shall be submitted on an application form prescribed by the board and shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the board to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, the date of the release from incarceration if applicable, and the specific nature of the conviction. Where the records are sealed, the applicant shall sign a waiver authorizing the board to access the criminal records of the applicant in order for the board to make the eligibility determination.

5.3. The applicant may submit with the petition for licensure eligibility evidence of rehabilitation, letters of reference, and any other information the applicant deems relevant to show fitness and the ability to practice landscape architecture.

5.4. The Board shall provide the determination within sixty (60) days of receiving the petition and the applicable fee from the applicant.

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