

March 31, 2026

Rhode Island House Committee on Corporations
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Caldwell, and Members of the House Committee on Corporations:

On behalf of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, we are writing in support of House Bill 7835, *An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Architects*. In the following paragraphs we would like to draw your attention to a few specific proposed amendments that will further streamline processes for the Rhode Island Board of Examination and Registration of Architects (the Board).

NCARB was created by U.S. jurisdictional architect state licensing boards to provide a common approach to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare by leading the regulation of the practice of architecture and supporting the development and application of standards for licensure. NCARB members are the nation's architectural licensing boards including the 50 U.S. states, and five U.S. territories (the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Utilizing the resources of NCARB, NCARB Member Boards have collaboratively developed the requirements necessary to practice architecture in the United States, including the [NCARB Model Law and Regulations](#).

We would like to highlight specific proposed amendments, including:

- Section 5-1-10. Subsection (b). - The proposed amendment to §5-1-10(b) provides the Board with greater flexibility to determine individual architect certificate expiration dates. This proposed change allows the Board to better align registration renewal processes with administrative capacity, further ensuring certificate renewals are managed efficiently and responsibly.
- Section 5-1-15.1 - The proposed amendments to §5-1-15.1 modernize the regulations concerning architect firm ownership in Rhode Island. Under the proposed changes, firms are no longer required to have a

specific portion of ownership held by licensed architects, or architects or engineers. Moving away from requiring a certain proportion of firm owners to be licensed as an architect, while ensuring the public is protected by the requirement for architects to maintain “responsible control” over their projects brings the Board in closer alignment with the principles of firm registration suggested in the *NCARB Model Law and Regulations* (see R303 Firm Registration starting on page 33).

These proposed amendments will further strengthen and streamline the Board’s administrative processes and clarify firm regulations, while maintaining protections for public health, safety, and welfare. The Board, architects, and firms will benefit from increased flexibility for licensure renewal and modernized compliance requirements for firms. House Bill 7835 reflects an opportunity to update architect regulations in Rhode Island so the Board can more efficiently and effectively carry out its mission.

We are thankful for your consideration in this matter and look forward to supporting the Committee in furtherance of this legislation. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Maurice Brown, NCARB’s Assistant Vice President of Advocacy and External Engagement (MBrown@ncarb.org).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua C. Batkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Joshua C. Batkin
Vice President for Council Relations
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards