



**AIA**  
**Kansas**

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**To:** Representative Tarwater and Members of the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

**From:** American Institute of Architects Kansas Chapter, Malcolm Watkins, Past President

**Re:** Opposition to HB 2066

**Date:** January 19, 2021

My name is Malcolm Watkins, Past President, for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Kansas chapter and a Vice President of Schaefer, Johnson, Cox, Frey Architecture, an over 60-year-old, 40 person architecture firm headquartered in Wichita.

Today I am testifying in opposition to HB 2066 on behalf of AIA Kansas, a professional organization representing over 740 architects. We are concerned about the burden that is placed on the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions and the general acceptance of what may be lower licensure standards from other jurisdictions. Architects are responsible for the integrity and safety of our public and private spaces. Professional licensing is an important indicator of a baseline level of expertise that helps protect Kansans.

HB 2066 lowers the standards for licensing by changing the determination that the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions must make in assessing whether or not an applicant intending to move to Kansas should be admitted to practice. The bill requires the board to determine if an applicant's license is similar in scope of practice to licenses issued by the board. The term "similar in scope of practice" is not defined.

If the board determines the license held by an applicant who is a non-resident, past or present military service member or the spouse of a current service member is not similar in scope of practice, the board shall nevertheless issue a temporary license and the applicant is then allowed to fully practice while completing any needed requirements for licensure in Kansas.

Additionally, any out-of-state applicant that does not have a license, registration or certification, but is instead applying with work experience or a private certification shall be granted a temporary license while they complete the additional testing, training, or education. This lower standard for licensing exception applies to any applicant who has ever been in the military or an applicant who does not have a license to practice the profession in another state. This proposed policy creates a danger to the public by allowing an unqualified licensee to practice.

Our opposition to HB 2066 can be remedied by including the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions in the new provision, Section 1, subsection (s) on page 7, which

allows the Board of Healing Arts to “deny any application for licensure, registration or certification, or decline to grant a temporary or probationary license, if the board determines the applicant’s qualifications are not substantially equivalent to those established by the board.” This policy provision is critical to protect the public from unqualified practitioners in Kansas and should be extended to the Board of Technical Professions.

Architects are responsible for the design of public institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and other publicly used structures. As our state looks to fully reopening, we must ensure that public health standards are met in designing modifications, expansions, and development of all institutions.

In closing, we respectfully request that you amend HB 2066 to add the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions with the Board of Healing Arts to the provisions in Section 1, subsection (s) on page 7, line 34-39 which allows the Board of Healing Arts and would allow the Board of Technical Professions to deny a license to an applicant whose qualifications are not substantially equivalent to those established by the board.and in subsection (t) (20) on page 8, line 23 to add: “as provided by subsection (s)”. Thank you.