

AIA Virginia Advocacy Successes

2024

- Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits
 - Supported HB 960 and SB 556 which increased the maximum credit per year from \$5M to \$7.5M (without establishing an annual cap on the overall program)
- DPOR suspensions
 - Supported HB 120 which directed DPOR to distinguish suspensions provoked by minor administrative (bouncing a check when renewing) from those resulting from substantial disciplinary actions
- APELSCIDLA Quorum
 - Supported HB 350 which adjusted the quorum requirement of the Board so that the progress of the Board is impeded less frequently
- Single Stair Study
 - Supported HB 368 and SB 195 which directed DHCD to convene an advisory workgroup to study the possibility of allowing Group R-2 occupancies to be served by a single exit in buildings not more than six stories above the grade plane
- Building Code Amendment NOIRA
 - Successfully opposed an ill-considered attempt to apply Executive Orders One and 19-2022 (which seek to reduce unnecessary regulation by 25%) to the 2021 Uniform Statewide Building Code

2023

- Refinements to Pay when Paid Legislation
 - Supported HB 2500 and SB 1313 which clarified that contracts pertaining exclusively to the procurement of professional services were excluded from the Pay when Paid requirements.
- Amendments to Legislation establishing Universal Licensure
 - Worked to have HB 2180 and SB 1213 satisfactorily amended such that they explicitly exclude professional services from the legislation requiring the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, upon application by an individual, to recognize licenses or certificates issued by another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or government certification in the Commonwealth.

2022

- Architectural and Professional Engineering Term Contracting via [HB 429](#) and [SB 225](#)
 - Sponsored this legislation which provides that the sum of all projects performed in an architectural and professional engineering contract term shall not exceed \$10 million, and the fee for any single project shall not exceed \$2.5 million. The bill allows a contract for multiple architectural or professional engineering projects to be renewable for up to three additional terms at the option of the public body. This bill simplified the code section so that there is continuity between jurisdictions regarding limits on term contracts while providing more business access for firms.
- Conforming Virginia's Taxation System with the Internal Revenue Code via [HB 971](#)
 - Supported this bill which ensures aid granted to businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program and Rebuild Virginia grants during the pandemic would not be treated as taxable income.

2021

- PPP Forgivable Loan Tax Conformity via [HB 1935](#) and [SB 1146](#)
 - Each year the General Assembly decides which federal tax provisions the Commonwealth will conform to, so Virginians know which provisions apply when filing their state income tax returns. Because of the pandemic, Congress passed numerous federal tax changes in the CARES Act and Consolidated Appropriations Act to provide immediate relief to struggling employers.
 - Specifically, two tax provisions were provided to PPP loan recipients 1) forgiven loans would not be taxable and 2) business expenses paid with those loan proceeds could be deducted.
 - Both bills included the income exclusion provision. There was question regarding what to include regarding deductibility [\$25,000 in one bill vs. \$100,000 in the other bill].
 - AIA Virginia was part of a 43-Member Coalition that successfully advocated for the \$100,000 deduction cap. This provides full deductibility to almost 80% of Virginia businesses who received a PPP loan.
- Defeat of [HB 2259](#) – Governor; issuance of licenses to persons denied by regulatory board
 - This bill provided that the Governor may issue a license of the kind granted by a regulatory board under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (ex: architecture) to any person whose application for such license to such board has been denied.
- An active stakeholder on [HB 5002 – Establish Small Business & Women-owned & Minority-Owned Business Procurement Enhancement Programs.](#)
 - Governor Ralph Northam announced the results of the Commonwealth’s disparity study, which demonstrate the need for narrowly tailored race- and gender-conscious measures to increase equitable opportunities for woman- and minority-owned businesses in state contracting. The outcomes of the study will guide the Northam Administration’s ongoing work with General Assembly leaders to increase supplier diversity and equity in the state procurement process.
 - AIA Virginia supported this legislation, however it did not pass in its current form. Due to our support, the Administration has committed to giving AIA Virginia a seat at the table during the discussions to retool the legislation for reintroduction.
- Launch of ARCHITECTS Speak Up!
 - We launched an event that consisted of 10 virtual introductory meetings between state legislators and AIA Virginia members to forge new relationships and discuss issues in our respective communities. In these meetings, architects effectively articulated the importance of our profession and unique skillsets as problem solvers. The result was that AIA Virginia became a resource for industry issues to our state’s elected officials.

2020

- Eliminating “Duty to Defend” language in public contracts via [SB 658](#)
 - Made the “duty to defend” language in indemnification clauses against public policy. This language in public contracts is often uninsurable by your professional liability carriers. Prior to this bill, this language was rarely negotiated out of design contracts by local governments.
- Statute of Limitations for Design and Construction Projects via [HB 1300](#) and [SB 607](#)



- Provided for a 15-year statute of limitation for design and construction projects performed for the Commonwealth of Virginia, including public institutes of higher education. Before passage of this legislation, architects were liable in perpetuity for their design work on these projects.

2019

- Preservation of Qualifications Based Selection via [HB 2198](#)
 - This was AIA Virginia’s bill to close the QBS “loophole” that existed in the law. Due to an administrative drafting error to a 2013 bill that attempted to clarify components of the Virginia Public Procurement Act, the requirement for QBS had been eliminated. We realized this when local governments began to exploit this “loophole” in its solicitation of professional services. This bill corrected this drafting error.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Since 2018, AIA Virginia has successfully advocated for its members to be appointed by the Governor or a State Agency to the following Boards and Commissions that impact our communities and profession:

- Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA)
- Fair Housing Board
- Art and Architectural Review Board
- Capitol Square Preservation Council
- Secure and Resilient Commonwealth Panel
- Residential Sprinklers Study Group
- Active Shooter and Hostile Threats in Public Buildings Study Group
- In-Building Emergency Communications Study Group
- Department of Housing and Community Development Energy Sub-Workgroup
- Department of Housing and Community Development Resiliency Sub-Workgroup
- Department of Housing and Community Development Statewide Fire Prevention Code Sub-Workgroup



Through the [AIA Virginia PAC](#), we support candidates who understand the architecture profession. When these candidates win, they bring that understanding to the General Assembly and to issues that are important us and the built environment.

A strong PAC is critical to our advocacy efforts and is completely funded by donations from members just like you. Remember: membership dues will never be used to support a political candidate. Read [FAQs](#) about our PAC giving.

Please [give today](#).