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## Washington Administrative Code

### Notice of Permanent Rules for **WAC 308-12-205 Architect Fees**

This explanatory statement concerns the **Washington State Department of Licensing's adoption of WAC 308-12-205 Architect Fees.**

The Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325(6)) requires agencies to complete a concise explanatory statement before filing adopted rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. This statement must be provided to anyone who gave comment about the proposed rule making.

Once persons who gave comment during this rule making have had a chance to receive this document, the Department of Licensing will file the amended rules with the Office of the Code Reviser. These rule changes will become effective 31 days after filing.

The Department of Licensing appreciates your involvement in this rule making process. If you have any questions, please contact Damon Monroe, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 902-3843 or e-mail at [dmonroe@dol.wa.gov](mailto:dmonroe@dol.wa.gov).

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#### **What are the agency's reasons for adopting this rule?**

The amendments to WAC 308-12-205 are needed to partially suspend renewal fees in an effort to maintain a balanced budget for the architect licensing program. The current temporary suspension expires on July 1, 2015.

#### **Summary of all public comments received on this rule proposal and the agency's response to those comments:**

In reply to the advertisement of public hearings in the Washington State Register, WSR 15-11-048, the program received six written comments; no one presented oral comments at the June 23, 2015, hearing.

##### **Comment:**

We received a comment asking to lower the licensing fee further than the proposed partial suspension.

##### **Reply:**

The program operates strictly on the fees it collects, and funds are not shared with other programs or other government agencies. The fund balance for the architect program is monitored and reevaluated frequently, and, if appropriate, the fees are adjusted to maintain a balanced budget.

##### **Comment:**

We received a number of comments asking to keep the fees at the original amount and use the excess funds to benefit current retired Architects, sponsor new licensees with examination events or provide seminars for licensees.

**Reply:**

The Department of Licensing does not have the authority to dispense funds in the suggested manner. The Architect program is a regulatory and licensing program and the fees that are collected are used to maintain a balanced budget for the purpose of licensing and regulating the profession.

**Comment:**

We received a number of comments asking for clarification about whether renewal fees were still due or if the rule change eliminated the renewal fees all together.

**Reply:**

The program customer service responded back to licensees letting them know that renewal fees are still due and the proposed rule change is to keep the current temporary fees suspension in place.

**WAC Changes:**

There are no differences between the text of the proposed rule as published in the register and the text of the rule as adopted.