

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 387

BY REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY

ARCHITECTS: Provides for the incidental practice of engineering

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1574.1(C)(1) and to enact R.S. 37:701(I)(3), relative to the  
3 practice of professional engineering and land surveying; to provide for the incidental  
4 practice of engineering by architects; to provide for the scope of practice for  
5 architects engaging in incidental engineering work; to provide for certain conditions;  
6 to provide for plan review procedures by the state fire marshal; and to provide for  
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 37:701(I)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §701. Public and private work; application of provisions

11 \* \* \*

12 I. An architect as defined in R.S. 37:141(B) has a right to engage in certain  
13 activities that fall within the definition of the practice of engineering as defined in  
14 R.S. 37:682, but only to the extent such activities are necessarily incidental to the  
15 architect's practice of architecture as defined in R.S. 37:141(B). Such incidental  
16 engineering work is limited to minor mechanical, electrical, or civil-structural  
17 engineering work necessarily incidental to the architect's practice of architecture.  
18 The incidental engineering work shall be of a secondary nature and shall be  
19 substantially less in scope and magnitude when compared to the architectural portion  
20 of the work. Incidental engineering work includes additions, renovations, or

1 alterations that do not require significant adjustments to the engineering calculations  
2 for the changes to the engineering systems or components. The incidental  
3 engineering work shall be safely and competently performed by the architect without  
4 jeopardizing the life, health, property, or welfare of the public. The incidental  
5 engineering work shall also satisfy all of the following conditions for new  
6 construction or additions:

7 \* \* \*

8 (3) For site work, including drainage, grading, sidewalks, pavements, and  
9 utilities, that site work is limited to areas located within five feet of the foundation.

10 Section 2. R.S. 40:1574.1(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §1574.1. Costs of handling plans

12 \* \* \*

13 C.(1) In the event that plans do not appear to the fire marshal to satisfactorily  
14 comply with the laws, regulations, and codes of Louisiana and the regulations of the  
15 state fire marshal, the state fire marshal shall furnish a letter to the party submitting  
16 the plans which shall list the particular requirements of the state fire marshal which  
17 must be met before the plans can be stamped "Reviewed" and before construction  
18 or renovation or remodeling can begin. However, where plans for projects are  
19 submitted in violation of R.S. 37:155(A)(4) or R.S. 37:701(I), no list of requirements  
20 shall be provided.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 387 Original

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Gadberry

**Abstract:** Provides requirements for architects performing incidental engineering work.

Present law provides an exception to the rule that engineering work shall be supervised by a licensed engineer, allowing architects to conduct certain engineering work incidental to their architectural work on a given construction or renovation project.

Proposed law limits architects to conducting site work including drainage, grading, sidewalks, pavements, and utilities only to areas within 5 feet of the foundation.

Present law provides that in the event plans submitted to the fire marshal do not satisfactorily comply with laws, regulations, and codes of this state or of the fire marshal, the fire marshal shall furnish a letter to the submitting party listing the requirements which must be met before construction or renovation work can begin. Present law provides that this letter need not be furnished if plans are submitted in violation of present law, R.S. 37:155(A)(4).

Proposed law adds that the fire marshal need not furnish that letter to the submitting party if plans are submitted in violation of proposed law, R.S. 37:701(I)(3).

(Amends R.S. 40:1574.1(C)(1); Adds R.S. 37:701(I)(3))