

THE NEVADA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS

Merge the following occupational boards:

- The State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design
- The State Board of Landscape Architecture
- The State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
- The Board of Environmental Health Specialist

Based on job duties, responsibilities and regulatory functions described, it is feasible to combine the Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design, Landscape Architecture, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and Environmental Health Specialists into one larger, consolidated board.

KEY SIMILARITIES ACROSS THE BOARDS

1. **Similar Regulatory Functions:** Each of these boards handles similar regulatory tasks, such as licensing, maintaining records, enforcing standards, issuing subpoenas and adopting codes of conduct. Combining them would streamline these overlapping functions, leading to more efficient administrative operations.
2. **Specific Needs and Representation:** By ensuring that each profession has dedicated representation within the combined board, the distinct standards and regulatory requirements of each discipline can be maintained. For example, landscape architecture and engineering have different technical competencies, but their licensing, examination and disciplinary functions are similar enough to be managed under one system.
3. **Consolidation Benefits:** A combined board would reduce administrative costs, eliminate redundancies in staff and resources and centralize operations, making the system more efficient overall. It would also simplify processes for public and professional inquiries, potentially improving service delivery across professions.
4. **Maintaining Integrity:** With appropriate safeguards—such as ensuring that board members from each profession actively participate in decisions that affect their specific fields—this consolidation would not compromise the quality, integrity, or specialized regulations of each profession.

NEW BOARD MAKE-UP (13 MEMBERS)

- **1 Registered Architect:** Representing the State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design Board, which has 3,087 licensees and zero complaints that required an investigation. This member should have at least three years of active practice in Nevada.
- **1 Registered Residential Designer:** Representing the State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design who have 163 licensees.
- **1 Registered Interior Designer:** Representing the State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design who have 181 licensees.
- **2 Professional Engineers:** Representing the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Board, which has 14,940 active licensees and 15 complaints that required an investigation. This member should be engaged in the practice or teaching of professional engineering.

- **2 Environmental Health Specialists:** Representing the Environmental Health Specialists Board, which has 307 licensees, and zero complaints required an investigation.
- **2 Registered Landscape Architects:** Representing the Landscape Architecture Board, which has 363 licensees and two complaints that required an investigation. Must have at least three years of practice with no disciplinary actions
- **2 Land Surveyors:** Representing the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Board, ensuring both disciplines are represented adequately. There are 671 licensees.
- **1 General Public Member:** Ensuring the representation of the general public's interests, must not be affiliated with any of the licensed professions.
- **1 Chief Medical Officer:** Meeting the requirement of the Environmental Health Specialists Board, the Chief Medical Officer or designated representative.

OTHER STATES

Several states have successfully combined boards that regulate professions such as architecture, engineering, interior design and landscape architecture, demonstrating the feasibility of such consolidations.

- **Virginia** has a combined board known as the APELSCIDLA Board which governs Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects. This board manages licensing, continuing education and professional conduct across these disciplines. The unified structure allows for streamlined regulatory processes while maintaining individual standards for each profession, such as separate sections for each discipline within the board.
- **Wisconsin** has a similar setup with its Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, Professional Land Surveyors and Registered Interior Designers. This board is divided into sections to handle specific professional concerns but operates under a unified administrative framework.
- **Minnesota** also regulates a wide range of related professions under a single board - the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design. This consolidation helps in reducing administrative overlap while ensuring that each profession's regulatory and licensure needs are met through specialized attention within the unified board.

CONCLUSION:

In summary, combining these boards is feasible but it must be done thoughtfully to maintain the unique regulatory frameworks and ensure continued professional representation from each discipline.

JUSTIFICATION AND BALANCING CONSIDERATIONS

- **Maintaining Core Professional Expertise:** Ensuring that the board has licensed professionals from architecture, landscape architecture, professional engineering, land surveying and environmental health ensures coverage of the key areas of practice.
- **Meeting Specialized Representation Requirements:** Including members like interior designers, landscape architects and environmental health specialists brings necessary expertise and meets specific professional requirements.
- **Ensuring Public and Community Oversight:** Having a general public member, as well as a representative from the medical community, ensures the board reflects public concerns and maintains transparency.

Resources:

Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation: <https://dpor.virginiainteractive.org/Boards/APELS>

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/AE/Default.aspx>

Minnesota Board of AELSLAGID: <https://mn.gov/aelslagid/states.html>