

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 4, 2021

3 SENATE BILL NO. 748

By: Jech of the Senate

4 and

5 Martinez of the House

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7
8 An Act relating to professions and occupations;
9 defining terms; making certain peer review records
10 privileged information; providing that certain
11 records not be discoverable or admissible in trial;
12 declaring certain holder of privilege; authorizing
13 peer review committee to report and discuss
14 information and findings without waiver of privilege;
15 providing immunity from civil liability for certain
16 acts performed in good faith; providing for
17 codification; and providing an effective date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 475.40 of Title 59, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. As used in this section:

23 1. "Design profession" means the practice of architecture,
24 landscape architecture, land surveying or engineering;

2. "Design professional" means an architect, landscape
architect, land surveyor or professional engineer or a business

1 entity authorized to practice one or more of the design professions
2 specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection;

3 3. "Architect" shall have the same meaning ascribed to such
4 term in Section 46.3 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

5 4. "Landscape architect" shall have the same meaning ascribed
6 to such term in Section 46.3 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

7 5. "Land surveyor" shall have the same meaning ascribed to such
8 term in Section 475.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

9 6. "Professional engineer" shall have the same meaning ascribed
10 to such term in Section 475.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11 7. "Lessons learned" means any internal meeting, class,
12 publication in any medium, presentation, lecture or other means of
13 teaching and communicating after substantial completion of the
14 project which is conducted solely and exclusively by and with the
15 employees, partners, consultants and coworkers of the design
16 professional who prepared the project's design for the purpose of
17 learning best practices and reducing errors and omissions in design
18 documents and procedures;

19 8. "Peer review" or "peer review process" means any of the
20 following functions:

21 a. evaluating and improving the design, drawings
22 specifications or quality of services rendered by a
23 design professional,

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1 b. evaluating the design, construction, procedures and
2 results of improvements to real property based upon
3 services rendered by a design professional during or
4 after completion of such improvements, or

5 c. preparing an internal lessons-learned review of any
6 project or services rendered for the purpose of
7 improving the quality of services rendered by a design
8 professional; and

9 9. "Peer reviewer" or "peer review committee" means an
10 individual design professional or a committee of design
11 professionals retained, employed, designated or appointed by:

12 a. a state, county or local society of design
13 professionals, or

14 b. the board of directors, chief executive officer,
15 quality control director, risk manager or employed
16 design professional of a business entity authorized to
17 practice one or more of the design professions
18 specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

19 B. The reports, statements, memoranda, proceedings, findings
20 and other records submitted to or generated by any peer review
21 committee or peer reviewer shall be privileged and shall not be
22 subject to discovery, subpoena or other means of legal compulsion
23 for their release to any person or entity or be admissible in
24 evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding. Information

1 contained in such records shall not be discoverable or admissible at
2 trial in the form of testimony by an individual who participated in
3 the peer review process.

4 C. The design professional who retains, employs, designates or
5 appoints the peer reviewer or peer review committee is the holder of
6 the privilege established by this section. This privilege may be
7 claimed by such design professional and shall not be waived as a
8 result of any disclosure by a peer reviewer or peer review
9 committee.

10 D. A peer review committee or peer reviewer may report to and
11 discuss activities, information and findings with other peer review
12 committees or peer reviewers or to the design professional who
13 retains, employs, designates or appoints the peer reviewer or peer
14 review committee and with any officer, director or quality control
15 director, risk manager or employed design professional thereof
16 without waiver of the privilege provided by subsection B of this
17 section, and the records of all such peer review committees or peer
18 reviewers relating to such report shall be privileged as provided by
19 subsection B of this section.

20 E. Each peer reviewer and member of a peer review committee
21 shall be immune from civil liability for such acts described in
22 paragraph 8 of subsection A and subsection D of this section, so
23 long as the acts are performed in good faith, without malice and are
24 reasonably related to the scope of inquiry of the peer review

1 process. The immunity in this subsection is intended to cover only
2 outside peer reviews by a third-party design professional who:

3 1. Is not an employee, coworker or partner of the design
4 professional whose design is being peer reviewed; and

5 2. Has no other role in the project besides performing the peer
6 review.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND TOURISM
9 February 4, 2021 - DO PASS

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