



## AIA New York Chapter

The Founding Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

*Int. No. 511, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to providing notice to the state concerning disciplinary proceedings against certain professionals.*

AIA New York Chapter supports this legislation. Professionals who are registered with the New York State Department of Education should be held to the highest standard of safe practice and training. It is common sense that the Department of Buildings, who monitors their practice in New York City, be informed about proceedings that impact the professional privileges of registered architects and engineers.

*Proposed Int. No. 547-A, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to issuance of a certificate of completion for individuals working on supported scaffolds and design requirements for supported scaffolds.*

*Int. No. 688, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the registration of general contractors.*

Because AIA New York supports more, not less formal requirements for training and certification of professionals in the building industry, we support the intent of these bills.

*Int. No. 718, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring all professionals who participate in the professional certification program at the department of buildings to carry professional liability insurance.*

Failing to carry a sufficient amount of professional liability insurance is, for an architect, equivalent to risking one's entire livelihood and career. We question that any professional practicing in the City today would do so. This bill would require the Commissioner to put a specific quantity on the amount of liability insurance that design professionals should carry. We are concerned that an arbitrary amount determined for all professionals could place unequal burden on small firms, which are often minority- or women-owned. The amount of liability insurance required should be sure to reflect this understanding—perhaps with the use of a sliding scale for the requirement depending on the size and financial value of the professional's projects.

*Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to, in relation to creating and disseminating a best practices at construction sites within the city of New York manual.*

The AIA NY Chapter strongly supports this bill and urges the Council to include comments from the design industry as well. As we represent over 4,200 architects and public members practicing in New York City, the AIA offers itself as a resource to the Department of Buildings for this manual and would be happy to participate in its preparation.