



**CCASLA Quarterly Report – 2nd Quarter**

**Landscape Architects Watching State Legislation and Regulatory Changes That Could Impact Licensure**

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Over 4,000 state legislative bills were introduced by late February in Sacramento (a record number for the beginning of the state’s two year legislative session). Among the many bills are several measures that could impact many state licensees if legislators decide to make the entry into different professions easier. The upside for the agencies is, with more licensees, comes more licensee revenue. The downside question is “will the entry of less educated and experienced licensees impact the health, safety and welfare of the state’s consumers?”

The following are the bills your state Association, the California Council of ASLA (CCASLA), will be reviewing in the next month to determine the impacts on you and the state’s consumers. If you have an interest in reading the actual language of the bills, you can upload a copy of each bill at the following website – <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>

Bill #	Author	Subject	Position/ Committee / Hrg	Date
AB 18	Garcia	California Clean water, Climate, & Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access	Watch	Asm Floor 3/13
AB 635	Harper	Department of Consumer Affairs – Boards (Spot Bill)	Watch	NA
AB 640	Harper	Recycled water: recycling criteria (Spot Bill)	Watch	NA
AB 710	Wood	Department of Consumer Affairs – Boards (Spot Bill)	Watch	NA
AB 826	Brough	Professions and Vocations – Administration (Spot Bill)	Watch	NA
AB 835	Dababneh	Consumer Affairs – License Status (Spot Bill)	Watch	NA
AB 869	Rubio	Water Use: Landscaping: Recycled Water	Watch	NA
AB 1005	Calderon	Department of Consumer Affairs – Occupational Analysis	Watch	NA
AB 1343	Chen	Stormwater Resources – Use of captured water	Watch	NA
AB 1483	Daly	Local Parks – Recreational Facilities in Under-served Communities	Watch	NA
AB 1489	Brough	Architects Act – Liability Shield for unauthorized plan amendments	Watch	NA
AB 1530	GonzalezFletcher	Urban Forestry – Maintenance of Urban Forest	Watch	NA
AB 1590	Chen	Professions and Vocations – Consumer Complaints	Watch	NA
AB 1624	Acosta	Surface Mining – Reclamation Plans	Watch	NA
AB 1667	Friedman	Urban Water Suppliers – Dedicated Landscape Water Meters	Watch	NA
AB 1668	Friedman	Water Conservation Guidelines	Watch	NA
AB 1669	Friedman	Urban Water Use Efficiency – Target by 2025	Watch	NA
SB 5	De Leon	California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protect+Outdoor Access	Watch	NA
SB 247	Moorlach	Reducing Occupational Licensing Requirements	Watch	NA
SB 364	Moorlach	Comprehensive Tax Reform	Watch	NA
SB 423	Cannella	Indemnity for Subcontractors	Watch	NA
SB 496	De Leon	Department of Consumer Affairs-Regulatory Board Member Removal	Watch	NA
SB 558	Glazer	Property Taxation- New Construction – Rain Water Recapture	Watch	NA
SB 780	Wiener	Water Conservation in Landscaping Act	Water	NA
SCA 9	Glazer	Property Tax – New Construction – Rain Water Recapture System	Water	NA

On March 17 and a date to be determined in April, your licensing agency (the Landscape Architect Technical Committee) held an Education Forum to discuss what types of degrees that the LATC might accept to be qualified to sit for the Landscape Architect Review Exam (LARE) and to consider giving licensee reciprocity to landscape architect licensees that are licensed landscape architects in other states but do not hold a degree in landscape architecture.

The CCASLA testified at the March forum and asked the LATC Directors to consider the following recommendations when they determine the types of college/university degrees and experience when determining when a licensee applicant can sit for the LARE or be granted a reciprocal license in the state of California.

1. Should other (related) degrees be allowed to meet the education requirement to sit in California for the licensing exam?

The concern is that the comparison should be on the commonality of subject matter of the related field's curriculum, not what other states do. Basing it on other states law overlooks the rationale and commonality used by each state.

***CCASLA recommends that the LATC Education Subcommittee look at this and make recommendations based upon such a comparison of the rationale and commonality of subject matter used by various states to determine if it meets the standards set by the LAAB.***

2. Should the LATC continue to review/approve the Extension Programs?

The concern is that the credit given to Extension programs is equal to landscape architecture degrees because of the synchronous review standards, i.e. Curriculum and other LAAB key standards. The majority of Extension Program students have degrees; some have advanced degrees. Typical accrediting organizations for universities do not play a role in the process of approving landscape architecture degree programs. The section of the Landscape Architects Practice Act, 2620.5 Requirements for an Approved Extension Certificate Program requires an approval process.

***CCASLA recommends that, with input from the two California Extension Programs, that the LATC Education Subcommittee look at this and make recommendations based upon the state's and LAAB key standards.***

3. Should the LATC consult with the CLARB Board which has drafted and will adopt model licensure "best practices" before adopting new California standards?

CLARB has drafted a new model law that addresses this issue as a "best practice" for all of North America. What they have crafted may address the LATC's concerns as well as the Extension programs and their reciprocity/comity issues. However, the draft model law is not yet ready for public consumption as it is due to be voted on by CLARB members in fall of 2017.

***CCASLA recommends that the LATC wait for the adoption of CLARB's model licensure "best practices" and use that as a model when determining what standards to use for LARE examination and California Supplemental Exam requirements and find any reciprocity guidance in their model that will help LATC adopt similar reciprocity guidelines.***

Your voice is being heard in Sacramento as well as Washington, DC. I hope you will thank our Chapter's volunteer directors, Mike Nichols, ASLA (Nichols Design Studio) and Marty Schmidt, ASLA (ENVIRONS) for their volunteer efforts to represent the industry in state government affairs and regulatory issues.