



ASLA

Connecticut Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects Testimony

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CONNECTICUT  
CHAPTER

SB 112 An Act Establishing A Landscape Contractor Examining Board and Requiring Landscape Contractors to be Licensed

AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE

HB 5215 An Act Requiring the Licensing of Landscapers

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Licensure is one of the highest levels of credentialing that can be granted to any group to help protect the health and safety and welfare of the public. From examination of information provided by the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, we have not identified anything that addresses this issue. As it stands though, the bill from the beginning appears most appropriate as a part of the Occupational Licensing Bill, Section 20-332 of the Connecticut General Statutes. As such, the CTASLA would not support legislation that identifies a trade as a Licensed Professional, and believe it is appropriate as an "Occupational Trade License".

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As an Occupation Trade License, "Definitions" are critical to correctly identify appropriate tasks of the proposed Registration. CTASLA would recommend deletion of language that is not measurable, or appropriate such as "art, design, or decorative treatment and arrangement". These terms do not apply to specific tasks that are measurable by the Consumer.

Furthermore, the development of definitions may cause confusion in the building trades, because of the varieties of site work that occurs. An example includes the grading of roadways and pathways associated with site work for developments. The definition lacks clarity to define specific parameters for site work Contractors of Trade Landscape Contractors versus General Site Contractors. The lack of clarity in the definitions may lead to confusion for the Consumer, as well as confusion for Contractors in General.

Licensing Board: While numerous Licensing Boards exist, such as Electrical, Heating Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal, Elevator, or Auto and Flat Glasswork, with appropriate education, experience and knowledge levels established, CTASLA believes a Board for Trade Landscape contractors is appropriate.

Additionally, as a Licensed Profession, Landscape Architects recognize the importance of education to obtain, and maintain our Professional license. In review of Trade licenses, we recognize the importance other trades place on education and experience. As such, we believe similar levels of importance should be stressed on a Trade License for Landscape Contractors.

Trade License Requirement: The levels of registration, and protection for the Consumer would require assurances that on-site practitioners have appropriate levels of registration. We believe that any group operating under a Trade Registration would have Supervisors or Foreman on site that has appropriate Trade Registrations. In this manner also, an apprentice program is feasible, to help grow the trade. Any act that provides for Registration of the Landscape Contractor's Trade should provide assurances that personnel, not only company management, are Registered with the State.

While in concept a Trade Registration for Landscape Contractors is appropriate, we believe the Trade should further investigate the implications of such a Registration for other trades, and the impact to the Consumer.