



February 17, 2015

Re: SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses — IN OPPOSITION

CONNECTICUT
CHAPTER
AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS
370 JAMES STREET
SUITE 402
NEW HAVEN
CONNECTICUT
06513
800 878-1474
WWW.CTASLA.ORG

Dear Honorable members of the General Law Committee:

As President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects I am here to oppose Proposed Bill 158, "An Act concerning Landscape Architect Licenses," as it is presently written. We were not been informed as to why the present law is inadequate in its goal to protect the health, safety and welfare (HSW) of the public. Your predecessors and professionals in the profession of Landscape Architecture crafted the initial law with diligence and used one of the higher levels of standards suggested by the Council of Landscape Architecture Review Boards. (CLARB). CTASLA believes that Connecticut's laws should continue to meet the highest level of standards to protect the HSW of its citizens.

Professional Licensure is based on the triad of education, experience and examination. This is true for engineers, architects and even doctors. It is critical that each element remain, and remain strong.

Education:

We acknowledge that "education" can take many forms; however, given the technical nature of the modern built environment and the potential to permanently damage our natural environment, structured and specialized education is increasingly more important, not less so. CTASLA believes that requiring a degree from a LAAB-accredited program, such as UConn's , validates the rigors of the programs and provides reassurance to the State Board that the programs meet set educational standards. The University of Connecticut has worked diligently to ensure that its program of Landscape Architecture meets these standards. We believe it will be extremely difficult for the Board to validate a degree or a program's standards and applicableness to Landscape Architecture without this accreditation.

Experience:

Experience can be difficult to quantify. Our present law requires 2 years of experience after one has obtained a degree from an accredited program. In this way a person can learn the appropriate manner in which to apply their newly gained knowledge under the watchful eye of a Licensed Landscape Architect. When an LA stamps a drawing, they acknowledge that they have reviewed the work and are taking full responsibility for that work and will be responsible for the liability that work might create. That liability is not an insignificant issue, as the cost of an E&O policy will clearly tell you, in dollar terms.

Eight years of experience under the supervision of a Landscape Architect, passing the exam and approval by the Board of Landscape Architects is also a provision contained in the present law. This allows a person to gain their "education" from a Licensed Landscape Architect with the understanding that it takes much longer to gain the full range of technical

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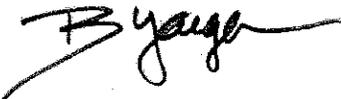
expertise this way. Again, the supervising LA will be stamping the work and taking on the responsibility and liability of it. I would also add that some states will not allow a person who obtains a license this way to gain a reciprocal license until their higher standards are met (New York is one).

Examination:

As submitted, Proposed SB-158 appears to eliminate the requirement for the exam. All 50 states have as their core licensure requirements: education, experience, and examination. Although Sen. Chapin has indicated in our discussions with him about the bill that it is NOT his intent to eliminate the exam, the proposal as it is now submitted appears to eliminate it, thus we feel we must respond to what is before you. The Exam is rigorously reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that it tests the skills necessary for protecting Health, Safety and Welfare in our modern, complicated built environments.

If anyone has further questions or needs more documentation. I will do my best to provide it or locate the appropriate resources.

Respectfully,



Barbara A. Yaeger, PLA, ASLA, CANP
President CTASLA ctasla.org

B. Yaeger LLC
205 River Road
Madison CT 06443
203-901-6915
bayworks4u@comcast.net