



# ASLA ILLINOIS

## CHAPTER ADVOCACY UPDATE 3.8.19

Fellow ILASLA Members,

The Illinois Chapter is on the road to making the Practice Act a reality. The bill has been introduced and we are actively coordinating final edits and amendments with allied groups over the next week. Sponsored by Assistant Majority Leader Senator Terry Link, SB1899 has moved from the Assignments Committee to the Senate Licensed Activities Committee for upcoming hearing and review. [You can read SB1899 here.](#) Please note that there are several anticipated revisions (albeit hopefully minor) that are not yet reflected in the current SB1899 language but will be amended prior to hearing.

This past week, members of the ILASLA Advocacy team met in Springfield with Senator Link, our lobbyist, and representatives and lobbyists from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), the American Institute of Architects – Illinois (AIA-IL), the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA), the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA), and the Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA) to discuss open concerns. The meeting was productive and we are optimistic that we can come to an understanding with our allied organizations.

### What next?

1. **Continue reaching out to your legislators, as now is a critical time for educating Senate members on the role of the profession and the importance of a Practice Act.** Resources are available and we are here to help you reach out and contact your legislators. Have a project they can tour? It's a great way to get your legislator out of their office. We are happy to assist, just contact Mark Jirik at [advocacy@il-asla.org](mailto:advocacy@il-asla.org) or Susan Ragaishis at [susan@il-asla.org](mailto:susan@il-asla.org). Key Senators serving on the Licensed Activities Committee can be found in the last [letter to members](#).
2. **Within the next few weeks, you will see a call for signing witness slips.** Please respond and share the information liberally. You do not have to be a landscape architect to sign a witness slip. As a reminder, the last time we reached out for signatures, over 500 responded. We can easily top that number with this once in a decade call to action!
3. **We are compiling a list of FAQs.** Please let us know your questions so that we can be prepared with as much information as possible going forward.
4. **We still need funding.** Please consider giving to the ILASLA Advocacy Fund to bring this effort home in 2019. You can [donate on-line or mail in your donation](#). Monthly increments or installments can be arranged by contacting [susan@il-asla.org](mailto:susan@il-asla.org).

**National ASLA report:**

**State legislative tracking is now publicly available on our [new interactive legislation map](#),** and as of Wednesday, March 6, State Government Affairs is [tracking 144 occupational licensing bills](#) in 38 states. Occupational licensing legislation is associated with deregulation trends, such as the Right to Earn A Living Act model legislation, occupation licensing reviews/studies, and the Consumer Choice Act model legislation. Additionally, occupational licensing legislation trends focus on licensure reciprocity of military members and their spouses, and bills restricting the use of prior criminal history in the granting of licenses. Staff is also tracking pertinent legislation affecting the landscape architecture industry, including proposals requiring businesses with state contracts to use verification tracking software.

Thank you for your continued assistance and focus on these issues.

Susan Ragaishis, Executive Director  
Mark Jirik, Advocacy Chair  
Keven Graham, President  
Bradley McCauley, Trustee