



CHAPTER ADVOCACY UPDATE 4.12.21

Re: Watch for iAdvocate Alert

Fellow Members and Advocates,

Within the next two days, you will be receiving an iAdvocate Alert from ASLA regarding our Title Act bill. You may respond to the alert which will have a letter prepared and will go straight to your legislators or you may use the templates at the end of this letter to reach out to your legislators on your own.

In the alert, you will learn:

ILASLA has two identical bills to reinstate the Landscape Architect Title Act moving through the legislative process. House Bill 246 sponsored by Representatives Theresa Mah, Barbara Hernandez, Deb Conroy, and Carol Ammons unanimously passed out of the House Labor Committee and is on Second Reading. Senate Bill 214 sponsored in the Senate by Senator Ram Villivalam unanimously passed the Senate Licensed Activities Committee and is on its Second Reading.

The General Assembly is nearing the end of a two-week break and is scheduled to return to Springfield on April 13, 2021. The deadline to pass bills on Third Reading in both chambers is April 23, 2021. We urge you to contact your State Senator and State Representative in support of these bills. Please call them in their district office or email them to urge their support. We would appreciate any feedback you receive from your legislators. Thank you.

The ILASLA executive committee thanks you for your patience and ongoing support throughout this challenging, difficult time. Please be well. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to support and/or become involved with related advocacy efforts, please reach out to one of us below.

Sincerely,

Magdalena Aravena, President, aravenam@theljc.com

Susan Ragaishis, Executive Director, susan@il-asla.org

Mark Jirik, Advocacy Chair, mark.jirik@site-design.com

[Find my Legislator](#)

Additional Letters to Members regarding the Title and Practice Acts are [here](#).

SAMPLE LETTERS/CALL NARRATIVE

SENATE LETTER

Dear Senator ...

As a landscape architect and one of your constituents, I urge you to support Senate Bill 214, legislation reinstating the Landscape Architecture Registration Act. Senate Bill 214 unanimously passed the Senate Licensed Activities Committee and has been placed on Second Reading.

This extremely important legislation would enable Illinois to re-join the 52 other state jurisdictions that regulate landscape architects, thereby ensuring both public protection and economic opportunities for landscape architects in the state. State licensure is a critical government function necessary to ensure the public's protection from unqualified or incompetent individuals who engage in professional practice.

The practice of landscape architecture impacts state residents and its visitors every day – from projects designed to manage stormwater, protect water quality, and address climate change, to planning and designs of hospital grounds, shopping centers, college campuses, parks, neighborhoods, riverfronts, and downtown streetscapes. These landscape architecture projects should be designed by qualified professionals proven to have met at least a minimum core competency in key areas that affect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Furthermore, re-establishing the regulation of landscape architects in Illinois will help domiciled design firms hire landscape architecture graduates from our state's two accredited education programs - the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Illinois Institute of Technology - as well as competitively hire emerging professionals from throughout the country.

Once again as my State Senator I urge you to support SB 214 and ask that you also consider becoming a cosponsor.

Sincerely,

Name/Address

REPRESENTATIVE LETTER

Dear Representative

As a landscape architect and one of your constituents, I urge you to support House Bill 246, legislation reinstating the Landscape Architecture Registration Act. House Bill 246 unanimously passed the House Labor & Commerce Committee and has been placed on Second Reading.

This extremely important legislation would enable Illinois to re-join the 52 other state jurisdictions that regulate landscape architects, thereby ensuring both public protection and economic opportunities for landscape architects in the state. State licensure is a critical government function necessary to ensure the public's protection from unqualified or incompetent individuals who engage in professional practice.

The practice of landscape architecture impacts state residents and its visitors every day – from projects designed to manage stormwater, protect water quality, and address climate change, to planning and designs of hospital grounds, shopping centers, college campuses, parks, neighborhoods, riverfronts, and downtown streetscapes. These landscape architecture projects should be designed by qualified professionals proven to have met at least a minimum core competency in key areas that affect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Furthermore, re-establishing the regulation of landscape architects in Illinois will help domiciled design firms hire landscape architecture graduates from our state's two accredited education programs - the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Illinois Institute of Technology - as well as competitively hire emerging professionals from throughout the country.

Once again as my State Representative I urge you to support HB 246.

Sincerely,

Name/Address