



CHAPTER ADVOCACY UPDATE 11.11.2020

Fellow Members and Advocates,

We learned late yesterday evening that the upcoming fall legislative scheduled for November 17, 18, 19, December 1, 2, 3, 2020 has been canceled on account of COVID-19 related concerns. This news comes to us with great frustration. We were poised to move the Landscape Architect Title Act reinstatement during this would-be legislative session. All interested groups, including the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDPFR), and local associations for architects, engineers, landscape contractors, green industry professionals, and home builders, have reviewed and agreed to our proposed language. We have met with political leadership and staff and relayed the importance to reinstate the Title Act. Throughout this process, we encountered little to no opposition and, instead, heard a great deal of support. We have strong, committed bill sponsors in Senator Ram Villivalam and Representative Theresa Mah. It appeared that we were well-positioned to pass the Title Act reinstatement this fall - so long as the legislature met. With the session canceled, and to our dismay and frustration, our bill for reinstatement of the Title Act cannot advance through the legislative process until the General Assembly reconvenes. This looks unlikely to happen until the start of the spring 2021 legislative session come January 13, 2021. In the interim, we will continue to advocate on behalf of this legislation and continue to contact key legislators.

On a related note, we learned on Monday that Representative Mah, one of our bill sponsors, has tested positive for COVID-19. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.

The ILASLA executive committee thanks you for your patience and ongoing support throughout this challenging, difficult time. Please be well and if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to support and/or become involved with advocacy related efforts please reach out to Susan Ragaishis, Executive Director, or Mark Jirik, Advocacy Chair.

Sincerely,

Susan Ragaishis, Executive Director, susan@il-asla.org
Mark Jirik, Advocacy Chair, mark.jirik@site-design.com.

Additional Letters to Members regarding the Title and Practice Acts are at <https://il-asla.org/advocacy/>.