



CHAPTER ADVOCACY UPDATE 2.7.24

Re: Updates on Continuing Education Requirements (CE) and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (IDFPR)

Fellow ILASLA Members and Advocates,

On July 28, 2023, the governor signed our bill to add continuing education requirements to our Registration Act.

The IDFPR has completed the preparation for proposed Rule changes. Last week, the Illinois and National Advocacy teams reviewed the CE rules and made comments. Once our comments have been reviewed by IDFPR, the rules will be submitted to the Illinois Secretary of State for public comment.

After 45 days of public comment (the First Notice Period), the bill will then go to the Joint Commission on Administrative Review (JCAR) (the Second Period Notice) to be reviewed and finalized.

As the rules stand in this version

1. Landscape architects will need 24 continuing education credits within each two-year renewal period.
2. The next renewal period will be August 2025.
3. Credits will begin counting retroactively to September 1, 2023.
4. You may not use previously earned credits before September 1, 2023.
5. Per recent correspondence with IDFPR, registrants will not need to submit proof of CEs to IDFPR during the renewal window. Registrants only need to certify compliance with the CE requirement at the end of the two-year renewal period. However, proof of CEs must be submitted if registrants are audited by IDFPR (which can happen) or if the registrant misses the renewal window.

Once JCAR verifies the rules, we will provide you with additional details. In the meantime, we advise you to continue attending continuing education classes, specifically those with an emphasis on health, safety, and welfare subject matter.

Members of the ILASLA Executive Committee met briefly with the new acting director of IDFPR and her staff on February 2nd. IDFPR relayed that they are currently in the process of identifying and implementing a new online licensing system to help modernize and expedite their licensing/registration practices. For any individuals currently applying for landscape architect registration who might be encountering challenges or long response times with IDFPR, please contact us, and we will notify the IDFPR staff we spoke with to assist in their review and processing of the application.

IDFPR also relayed that the Landscape Architecture Registration Board has been reinstated, with all five members selected and appointed. They are scheduled to meet on February 22, 2024.

Sincerely,

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

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Additional Letters to Members regarding the Title and Practice Acts, including a link to the Act, are [here](#).