

ASSEMBLY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4330**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 14, 2007

The Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4330.

This bill abolishes the Landscape Architect Examination and Evaluation Committee and transfers the powers, duties and responsibilities of the committee to the New Jersey State Board of Architects.

The bill revises the law concerning the regulation of landscape architects to provide for the licensure of landscape architects, as opposed to the current law which provides for the certification of landscape architects. The bill also “grandfathers” existing certified landscape architects so that they may be considered licensed landscape architects upon the effective date of the bill.

The bill also amends the definition of “the practice of landscape architecture” to mean any service in which the principles and methodology of landscape architecture are applied in consultation, evaluation, planning, and design, including the preparation and filing of sketches, drawings, plans and specifications for review and approval by governmental agencies, and responsible administration of contracts to the extent that the primary purpose of the contractual services is the preservation, enhancement or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and planting, naturalistic and aesthetic values, the settings and approaches, or environment for structures or other improvements, the shaping and contouring of land and water forms, natural drainage and determination of related impacts, assessments, and problems of land disturbance including erosion and sedimentation, blight, or other hazards. This practice includes the location and arrangement of those tangible objects and features as are incidental and necessary to the purposes outlined in the law and as may be prescribed by State or local authorities, but does not include the design of structures or facilities ordinarily included in the practice of engineering or architecture and does not include the making of land surveys, or final land plats for official approval or recording or other services relating to a definition of what constitutes the practice of land surveying.

The bill, however, does not prohibit any person from preparing landscaping plans for sites where government review or approvals are not required or where government review or approvals do not require the signature and seal of a landscape architect.

The bill also increases the required amount of combined education and practical experience for licensure as a landscape architect from at least six years to at least eight years, as provided in N.J.S.A.45:3A-8.

Additionally, the bill increases the minimum continuing education requirements for licensed landscape architects, as provided by N.J.S.A.45:3A-15. As provided in the bill, a licensed landscape architect must participate in at least 24 hours of continuing education classes, rather than the current statutory requirement of at least 20 hours, and provides that a licensed landscape architect must complete these requirements every two years.

Also, the bill increases the membership of the New Jersey State Board of Architects from 11 to 15 by adding two additional licensed landscape architects and two additional licensed architects to the board. As provided in the bill, the licensed landscape architects serving on the board shall have been engaged in the practice of landscape architecture for at least 10 years. Under current law, the landscape architect serving on the board is required to have been engaged in the practice of landscape architecture for at least five years.

The bill further provides that following enactment of the bill, for one year from the effective date of this act, a licensed architect or licensed professional engineer may be licensed as a landscape architect, provided that the architect or engineer meets certain educational standards enumerated in the bill; has engaged in landscape architectural work satisfactory to the board for a period of not less than five years; and has passed the landscape architect examination administered by the board to individuals applying for licensure as landscape architects. The bill further stipulates that such licensed architects who are licensed as landscape architects shall biennially complete not less than 12 hours of continuing education in landscape architecture and that such licensed professional engineers shall biennially complete not less than 24 hours of continuing education in landscape architecture.