

ADVOCACY UPDATE:

There is still time for you to provide testimony to the Joint Finance Committee related to the proposed Occupational License Review Council. We've had a good response so far, and we are seeing that people speaking out is making a difference. Following testimony at the first week's public Joint Finance Committee hearings, the committee Co-Chairs, Sen. Darling and Rep. Nygren, issued a recommendation to remove from the proposed state budget the Governor's budget proposal item related to the Occupations License Review Council, among other non-fiscal policy items. This is a good first step, but the committee may yet need to vote on pulling these items out, and per an article from last Sunday's State Journal ([Link](#)), Co-Chair Nygren is saying they may add some of these items back into the budget at a later date. There also appears to be some appetite for occupational reform in the current legislature. So, if the Review Council is not included in the budget, it is likely this item is drafted as a stand-alone piece of legislation outside of the budget.

WI ASLA is asking individuals to contact the Joint Finance Committee through email at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov to thank the Joint Finance Committee for taking policy items out of the budget, and asking them to not add the Review Council back in. Emails must be sent by end of day, Sunday, April 30th. Here are some talking points you can include:

- The Occupational License Review Council does not have any fiscal impact. It is a policy item that does not belong in the state budget.
- The licensure review process created by the state budget **does not** require public input. A 13-member Council made up of 8 gubernatorial appointees, four state legislators and the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services gets to decide which licenses to recommend for elimination.
- An **unamendable bill** would be introduced in the Legislature based on the Council's recommendations for licensure elimination. There is **no requirement to hold a public hearing on the bill** introduced by the Council, and it does not have to go through the normal legislative process. This denies people impacted by proposed licensure elimination a chance to weigh in on the process.
- After much scrutiny and vetting during the full legislative process, the Wisconsin Legislature voted for our Practice Act, and for licensure for landscape architects in 2009. The licensure review process created by the budget could repeal Wisconsin's landscape architect licensure law outside of the traditional legislative process and with no requirement for public input. Repealing licensure for Landscape Architects would create barriers to employment and financial harm for Wisconsin landscape architects – most of which are small businesses that provide much needed jobs and economic development to their communities. Currently, the profession of landscape architecture is regulated in all 50 states and Washington D.C.