

## WI ASLA Licensure Advocacy Update / Full Text

Good morning WI ASLA!

On the week of March 23, 2018 the Wisconsin Senate will conclude its business for the 2017-2018 session – and the two bills we've been tracking concerning our professional license, SB 288 & SB 296, and companion bills in the Assembly, AB 369 & AB 370, will not be voted on. These bills will expire – unless they are tagged on to other legislation should the Governor convene a special or expedited session of the legislature, which is unlikely. This is a small, but meaningful, victory and defense of our ability to practice and earn a living in the state of Wisconsin.

Recall – The false premise that professional licensure restricts employment opportunity and adds to consumer costs came out of the WILL document “Fencing Out Opportunity – Occupational Licensing in the Badger State”. The Chapter effectively countered the false statements about Landscape Architecture contained in that document.

With the expiration of the Assembly and Senate legislation, we must now turn our attention to the DSPS Occupational License Review Council. To re-cap for you – Governor Walker's 2017-2018 Budget proposal included the creation of a 'Professional License Review Council (by including policy items, the Governor avoids public hearing and floor debate on controversial issues). As the Budget worked its way thru Joint Finance Committee hearings and listening sessions, we actively encouraged the removal of policy inclusions in the Budget. In response to our advocacy, JFC did eliminate the policy provision creating the review council from the Budget passed by the Assembly and the Senate. Unfortunately, the Governor re-inserted the policy as he signed the Budget into law, requiring the DSPS to create the 'Occupational License Review Council'. The text of the Budget provision is provided below – as you read, this “review” can be equally as toxic as the expired legislation!

The Chapter is working with legislative consultant Michael Blumenfeld and Associates in strategizing our response. Chapter leadership has been proactive and has already met with DSPS Secretary Laura Guterrez and the Deputy and Assistance Secretaries. The Secretary has indicated that the 'review' process will be “transparent” and will seek WI ASLA input for factual information to include in the review. This is critical! WI ASLA Advocacy and Government Affairs will work with ASLA Government Affairs, CLARB and

LAF in assembling information that will effectively defend our license. If we're not at the table – we're on the menu!

Our plan is to reach out to DSPS and be included in the review process with factual information. We will also meet with JFC and ORC key leadership and the Governor and his staff as informational opportunities to reinforce how Landscape Architects protect public HSW, design our natural, built and cultural environment and our contributions to the state economy. As members, practitioners and constituents, we will be mobilizing Chapter membership in our advocacy efforts.

Every day is Advocacy Day!

Jay Gehler, ASLA

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