

HB

243

HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL, JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-4954



TO: Representative Jeannette James
Chair
House State Affairs

FROM: Representative Pete Kott
Chair

RE: HB 243

DATE: March 10, 1995

I request that HB 243, a copy of which is attached hereto, be scheduled for a committee hearing at the earliest convenient date. This bill brings the practice of landscape architecture within the regulatory jurisdiction of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

I have requested appropriate fiscal notes and will forward them to you upon receipt. Moreover, early next week I will supplement this request with a sponsor statement and a sectional analysis.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
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Juneau, Alaska 99801-7105

MEMORANDUM

March 10, 1995

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 243. (An Act relating to licensure of landscape architects.)

TO: Representative Pete Kott
Attn: George Dozier

FROM: Terri Lauterbach *TML*
Legislative Counsel

This memo is a sectional summary of the above-described bill. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sections 1 - 33.

These sections make the changes necessary in AS 08 so that the current Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors would have the authority to regulate landscape architects. Under sec. 3, a landscape architect would be added as a nonvoting member of the board. Under sec. 5, the landscape architect would **not** be entitled to per diem or travel expenses. The "practice of landscape architecture" is defined in sec. 32.

Sections 34 - 35.

These sections make the changes necessary outside of AS 08 to change the name of the board.

Sections 36 - 37.

These sections are transitional provisions.

TML:klb:glc
95-140.klb

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SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 243

Architects, engineers, and land surveyors, because of the nature of their work, are in the position to do a lot of good for the public when they perform competently. By the same token, if they do not perform competently, they can cause much suffering and financial loss to the public. Accordingly, it is vitally important to the state that only competent persons are allowed to work in these professions. In recognition of that fact, Alaska created the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineer, and Land Surveyors. It charged this board with the responsibility of licensure and discipline of these professionals. State law also makes it illegal to practice the affected professions without being registered by the Board.

Currently, landscape architects are not within the Board's jurisdiction. HB 243, should it become law, would accomplish that end and subject landscape architects to the same licensure and disciplinary procedures as currently exist with respect to architects, engineers, and land surveyors.

Landscape architects perform tasks pertaining to the use of exterior spaces. This can involve parks, playgrounds, trails, scenic vistas, plazas, etc. To perform their job, landscape architects must be knowledgeable in a wide variety of different topics, including universal design standards, erosion control, environmental laws, irrigation, slip resistance, insecticides, and drainage. Obviously, when performed in a shoddy manner, landscape architecture constitutes a danger to public welfare and safety.

It is respectfully submitted that the same rationale which supports the regulation of architects, engineers, and land surveyors requires a similar approach with respect to landscape architects. This fact is recognized by 45 of our sister states, which license landscape architects. Your support of this bill will enhance the safety and welfare of Alaskans. I therefore commend it to you.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 243

Revision Date: <u>March 16, 1995</u>	Department: <u>Commerce and Economic Development</u>
Title: <u>An Act relating to licensure of landscape architects.</u>	BRU: <u>Occupational Licensing</u>
Sponsor: <u>House Labor & Commerce</u>	Component: <u>Operations</u>
Requestor: <u>House Labor & Commerce</u>	COMPONENT SERIAL #: <u>1844</u>

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES	10.4	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
CONTRACTUAL	6.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
SUPPLIES	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	21.7	19.2	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES	40.9	0.0	17.6	0.0	17.6	0.0
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FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 General Fund						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	21.7	19.2	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	21.7	19.2	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8

Estimate of any current year (FY 95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME	1	1	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note for HB 243 shows costs assuming the registration of landscape architects will be accomplished by adding one non-voting board member to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, assuming the examination will be administered twice each year, and no out-of-state travel provided. Also, no funding for investigative expenses are requested in this fiscal note. However, if numerous complaints are received, funding for investigative costs will be required in the future. (Continued on attached)

Prepared by: <u>Jennifer Strickler, Admin. Officer</u>	Phone: <u>465-2144</u>
Division: <u>Occupational Licensing</u>	Date: <u>3/16/95</u>
Approved by Commissioner: <u>William L. Hensley</u>	Date: <u>3/16/95</u>
Agency: <u>Commerce and Economic Development</u>	

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 243

ANALYSIS: (Continued)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FISCAL NOTE CALCULATIONS FOR HB 243

PERSONAL SERVICES

\$10.4

The Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors is presently understaffed. This fiscal note assumes that the duties for examination and registration of landscape architects will require at least one-fourth of a Licensing Examiner's position, Range 12, (\$10.4) for the first two years to implement the program.

TRAVEL

\$3.8

Staff travel identified below will be required for board meetings and examinations:

TRAVEL TO BOARD MEETINGS FOR STAFF, \$ 2.2

The board meets four times each year. The travel costs are based on the airfare and per diem for one additional staff person to travel to three meetings.

STAFF TRAVEL TO ADMINISTER EXAMINATIONS, \$1.6

The staff travel costs are based on the airfare and per diem for one staff person to travel from Juneau to Anchorage for two three-day examinations (\$.8 each) annually to proctor the examinations and provide examination security.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

\$ 6.5

The division is anticipating the charge for the national examination for landscape architect registration can be paid by the applicant directly to the examination agency. If the examination agency will not allow direct payment, additional funding of \$41.0 (\$20.5 per exam) will be required for examining at least 50 applicants at each exam. *(Note: The \$41.0 is not included in this fiscal note request since the division is anticipating payments to be made directly by the applicant to the examining agency.)*

Contractual services cover printing, postage, communications, and advertising costs (3.3); three days' room rental for examination administration (1.8); and membership fees to belong to the national organization for landscape architect registration (1.4). It is estimated that there will be higher costs in the initial year for regulations projects and examinations. In the following years it is estimated that the expenditures for contractual services may be reduced to \$4.0 due to decreased costs to develop regulations and lower room rental costs to examine fewer numbers of applicants.

SUPPLIES

\$ 1.0

TOTAL:

\$ 21.7

REVENUE/FUND SOURCE: In accordance with AS 08.01.065, all licensees are required to pay for the costs of regulating their profession. The revenue shown anticipates licensing fees to cover all costs associated with registration for landscape architects. If the number of potential registrants under this bill are few, for example 50, licensing fees must be set at \$818.00 biennially (\$409.00 per year) to fully cover its costs. If more individuals seek registration, individual licensing fees would be lower. Under the self-sufficiency mandate by statute, licensing fees will than be reviewed prior to the license renewal (in two years) and adjusted accordingly. This program is intended to be funded entirely by general fund/program receipts from fees.