

SB

110

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 110(L&C)

Revision Date: January 20, 1998
 Title: An Act relating to licensure of landscape architects.
 Sponsor: Senator Mackie
 Requestor: Senate Finance

Department: Commerce and Economic Development
 BRU: Occupational Licensing
 Component: Operations
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 1844

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	5.4	5.4	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
SUPPLIES	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	6.4	6.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES	12.8	0.0	11.2	0.0	11.2	0.0
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 General Fund						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	6.4	6.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other 1091 Designated PR						
TOTAL	6.4	6.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6

Estimate of any current year (FY 98) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note assumes that registration of landscape architects will be accomplished by adding one non-voting member to the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors (AELS); and that examination for landscape architects will be administered once annually by a testing agency. Additionally, no out-of-state travel is included in this fiscal note, and no funding for investigative services. However, if numerous complaints are received and investigative services become necessary, additional funding will be required at such time. An explanation of the costs identified above are attached.

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager
 Division: Occupational Licensing
 Approved by Commissioner: Deborah B. Sedwick
 Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

Phone: 465-2144
 Date: 1/20/98
 Date:

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 110(L&C)

ANALYSIS: (Continued)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FISCAL NOTE CALCULATIONS

PERSONAL SERVICES \$ 0.0

TRAVEL \$ 0.0

No travel is anticipated.

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$ 5.4

Contractual Services are based on the following (underlined) costs-

Proctor Fees:

One three-day exam, 8 hours per day. The proctor fee is \$10 per hour x 8 hours = \$80 x 3 days = \$240;

Regulations:

- One public notice printed in three newspapers: estimated at \$200 per paper x 3 = \$600;
- Printing of regulations consisting of 6 pages, back-to-back, at \$12 per 100 x 6 pages = \$72 x 3.5 (to produce 350 copies) = \$252;
- Postage for 350 pieces x .32 = \$112;

Daily communication costs = \$1,000;

Room rental for three days of examinations at \$600 per day x 3 days = \$1,800;

Membership fees = \$1,400.

After the first two years, it is anticipated that costs associated with public noticing and printing of regulations will cease.

SUPPLIES \$ 1.0

TOTAL: \$ 6.4

CSSB 110(L&C), continued

REVENUE: In accordance with AS 08.01.065, all licensees are required to pay the costs of regulating their profession. In accordance with Section 3 of the bill, licensees under the Board of Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects will pay fees to cover the costs identified in this fiscal note.

This program is intended to be funded entirely by *General Fund/Program Receipts* from licensing fees.

SENATE DISTRICT C
KODIAK ISLAND
SOUTHEAST ISLANDS

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SENATOR JERRY MACKIE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

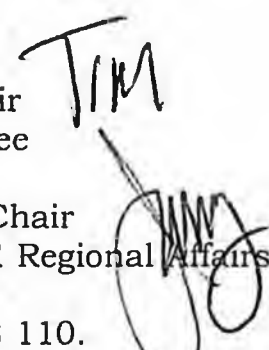
MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 1998

To: Senator Tim Kelly, Chair
Senate Rules Committee

From: Senator Jerry Mackie, Chair
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Subject: Request to schedule SB 110.



I would appreciate your consideration in scheduling SB 110, relating to the licensure of landscape architects, before the Senate Rules Committee as soon as possible. I have attached a packet of information which includes a brief sponsor statement and many letters of support.

In order for Alaskan landscape architects to secure federal projects the state must provide landscape architect licensing capabilities. Alaskan landscape architects are currently excluded from participating in securing these federal jobs and these moneys are going to companies located outside of this state. For example, two recent lucrative projects not available to Alaskans were the redesign of the Starrigavan Campground outside Sitka and the redesign of the Mendenhall Lake Campground out of Juneau. This legislation will provide the state with another tool to support the hire of Alaskan workers and companies.

The main change included in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee Substitute is included on Page 14, Section 36, Lines 5-16. This essentially eliminates the addition of a permanent, voting landscape architect to the board. The intent is to have a landscape architect as a resource person during the initial regulations process, but not on a permanent basis.

The new fiscal note indicates that in accordance with AS 08.01.065, all licensees are required to pay the costs of regulating their profession; Section 3 (included in Page 2) of the L&C CS provides that the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors will pay fees to cover the costs identified in the fiscal note. This program will be paid entirely by General Fund - Designated Program Receipts.

Your consideration of this request for scheduling SB 110 would be greatly appreciated.

SPONSOR STATEMENT- SENATOR MACKIE
SB 110 - "AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSURE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS."

SB 110 proposes to amend AS 08.48.011(a) by adding landscape architects to the current State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; landscape architects work professionally side by side with these other state registered design disciplines on a daily basis.

Although 45 states currently require such licensing, there are no licensure requirements in the State of Alaska. Similar to architects and engineers, landscape architects must attend accredited universities which are accredited by their national organization (American Society of Landscape Architects) which has rigid accreditation criteria.

Landscape architects provide for the design for improvements of major public facilities, in all types of site development, commercial development and housing. Licensed landscape architects require minimum standards for the protection of public health and safety in the design of playgrounds where safety of children must be guaranteed, the design of bike trails that recognize frozen soil considerations that meet codes for accessibility and safety, the design of landscapes along roadways where roadside safety of motorists must be assured in the advent of an accident and also the design of wetland treatments of storm water runoff.

In order for Alaskan landscape architects to secure federal projects, the state must provide landscape architect licensing capabilities. Alaskan landscape architects are currently excluded from participating in securing these federal jobs and these moneys are going to companies located outside of the state. SB 110 would level the playing field for Alaskans competing for federal work performed in this state, thus helping to ensure that moneys spent for design of Alaskan facilities will be utilized by businesses and professionals who reside in our state.

Licensing requirements would ensure that individuals providing these professional services are licensed by the State of Alaska and would give landscape architects their due recognition as qualified professionals for the design and development of the outdoor environment. By combining development projects with health, safety, and environmental design, landscape architecture is instrumental in eliminating the negative aspects of potential development projects.

The new 1998 fiscal note reflects that all licensees are required to pay the costs of regulating their profession; Section 3 provides that the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors will pay fees to cover costs in this fiscal note. This legislation does not add a permanent, voting landscape architect to the board and will meet our intent to have a landscape architect as a resource person during the initial regulations process, but not on a permanent basis.

Municipality
of
Anchorage



PARKS AND RECREATION

April 7, 1997

Senator Jerry Mackie, Vice Chair
Alaska State Legislature
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capital, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Letter of Support for SB 110 (Landscape Architects Licensing Bill)

Dear Senator Mackie:

I am writing you to express my support for the Landscape Architects Licensing Bill, SB 110. Landscape architects at the Municipality are hired both as staff and as consultants. They work in key positions of responsibility that involve the safety and welfare of the public. These areas of practice typically involve the design and construction inspection of outdoor facilities including children's playgrounds.

Note that most other states do already license landscape architects. This unfortunately gives out of state professionals some advantage when competing for work here locally. Licensing landscape architects in Alaska would place them on an even footing with out of state consultants and provide the same uniform guarantee of competency that outside professionals now enjoy.

The regulation of this profession is needed now to ensure that minimum standards are set and maintained for landscape architects practicing in Alaska. To protect the safety of our citizens and to help our state's economy, I urge you at this time to support this bill (SB 110), which would provide for the licensing of landscape architects in Alaska.

Sincerely,

David H. Gardner, Supervisor
Parks & Recreation Division
Design & Development Section

DG/vg

cc: Constance R. Jones, Director, Cultural & Recreational Services
Bill Lindsey, Manager, Parks & Recreation Division
Tim Rogers, Executive Assistant, Municipal Manager's Office



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region

P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

File Code: 1510/2380

Date: JAN 20 1998

Honorable Jerry Mackie
AK State Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Mackie:

The USDA Forest Service, until recently, was the largest employer of landscape architects in the country. Such is no longer the case due to recent budget and personnel cutbacks.

Landscape architects in the Forest Service have primary responsibility for overseeing the planning, design, and construction of recreation sites and facilities in the National Forests in Alaska, as elsewhere. They also have primary responsibility for assessing the potential visual impacts of proposed projects and, when needed, developing visual simulations to display these impacts for managers and the public.

It has been common for the last few years to contract out design and construction document preparation for the rehabilitation of existing facilities and the development of new facilities. Contracting regulations, as well as the inherent need to ensure designs are functional, safe, and meet codes, and simulations are pictorially and spatially accurate, lead selection teams to contractors with licensed professionals. The lack of professional licensing of landscape architects in Alaska has contributed to our contracting with landscape architect firms outside the State for such lucrative projects as the recent redesign of Starrigavan Campground outside Sitka and the redesign of Mendenhall Lake Campground outside Juneau. For information, Alaska is one of only five states in the country which does not license landscape architect professionals.

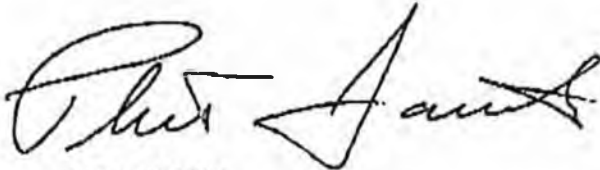


Honorable Jerry Mackie

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I would like to go on record as supporting the hiring of Alaskan individuals and companies whenever possible. Providing Alaska State licensing for landscape architect professionals will help us toward that goal.

Sincerely,



PHIL JANIK
Regional Forester

cc:

Alaska Delegation

Honorable Tony Knowles

Chief, Forest Service

Nora Laughlin, Public Services, Regional Office

Regional Office, Communication Services

Washington Office, Legislative Affairs

Washington Office, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff

Walsh Planning and Development Services

Murray R. Walsh, AICP
2974 Foster Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Voice: (907) 586-4083
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Optima Est

January 19, 1998

Sent by FAX

Senator Jerry Mackie
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 110 Licensure of Landscape Architects

Dear Senator Mackie:

I urge you and the Finance Committee to approve SB 110 and move it on for final adoption. It is likely that most citizens are unaware of the expectations and capabilities of landscape architects. I suspect most folks just think of them as glorified gardeners. However, I have worked with several landscape architects and this is far from the case. Landscape architects take training that is every bit as complex and challenging as that of architects and engineers and their work is every bit as crucial for successful development and safe facilities as the work of the other disciplines.

The practice of landscape architecture must address human and vehicular safety as well as the proper functioning of the site and its improvements. An LA produces plans upon which contractors must bid and upon which contracts are signed. Such plans, just as those of a building, must be clear and reliable so that materials may be purchased, work scheduled, machines made available at the right time, and so that work in the field can proceed. A poorly drawn plan will waste money and create confusion. The LA's clients, including public clients, depend on good plans in order to achieve their objectives. Most important of all, the LA puts his or her name on plans for which human and vehicular safety is a vital concern.

There is a risk of charlatantry in any discipline which is not well-understood by the public. SB 110 will thwart those who would take advantage of public unawareness of landscape

Senator Jerry Mackie
January 19, 1998

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architecture and will, by its implementation, help make the public more aware of the capabilities and services of this profession.

SB 110 is structured to avoid increasing costs to the public and to clients for landscape architecture services and will also help to keep more design fees within the State of Alaska. Just as important, a licensed LA in Alaska will be better able to compete for work outside the state than is the case presently. A net benefit to Alaska's economy is sure to result.

I regret that I will not be able to attend your hearing on SB 110 on January 20th. However, I would be happy to assist your deliberations in any other way so please contact me if I can be of any help. I have 22 years of professional planning experience in Alaska and I have worked with all of the other professional disciplines typically involved in development. I can assure you that landscape architecture is a vital part of today's development environment and a crucial part of the future. The profession deserves the recognition that SB 110 will provide and the public needs the protection that will also stem from SB 110. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Murray R. Walsh, AICP