

**REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION**

**NEED FOR LICENSING
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 9

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2000**



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November 16, 1999

To the Governor and Members of the General Assembly of Virginia:

Senate Joint Resolution 431 adopted at the 1999 session requested "the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation to study whether there exists a need to change the current level of regulation of landscape architects in the Commonwealth from certification to licensure."

I am pleased to transmit to you the result of the study you requested. The board concluded that a licensure program for landscape architects is not warranted. The existing voluntary certification program may cause consumer confusion, so the board recommends that the statute be amended to clarify that the title of landscape architect be reserved for those individuals who have been certified by the state.

This report, approved November 16, 1999, outlines the findings, conclusions and recommendations. Members of the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation would be pleased to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Morris A. Nunes
Chairman, Board for Professional and
Occupational Regulation

MAN/kzw

*BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION*

**Report on the Need for
Licensing Landscape
Architects**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Executive Summary	1
II.	Introduction	
	A. Background and purpose of report	3
	B. Statutory authority	3
	C. Methodology	4
III.	Findings	
	A. Profile of the industry	5
	B. Allied professions and practices	6
	C. Public harm	7
	D. Regulation in other states	8
	E. Public comments	9
IV.	Conclusions and recommendation.....	10
V.	Appendix A	12
	Appendix B	13

I. Executive Summary

Senate Joint Resolution 431 requested the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation (the Board) to examine the need to increase the level of regulation for landscape architects from voluntary certification to mandatory licensing. The Board was asked to determine whether voluntary certification provides the necessary public protection. This report will explain the methodology used in studying this issue and the information generated. It will summarize the public comment received by the Board, and conclude with recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Virginia established a voluntary certification program for landscape architects in 1980. The law permits local and state authorities to accept plans and specifications, submitted under the seal, stamp or certification of a certified landscape architect in connection with both public and private projects. The law prohibits the use of the title "certified landscape architect" unless certified pursuant to § 54.1-410 of the *Code of Virginia*. The regulations require passage of the national Landscape Architect Registration examination after meeting education and/or experience requirements. However, the law clearly states that the definition of landscape architecture shall not be construed to restrict or otherwise affect the right of others including nurserymen, landscape designers, land planners, landscape gardeners, etc. from engaging in such occupation. There are currently 411 certified landscape architects in Virginia.

Numerous public comments were received demonstrating the critical role of landscape architects in designing commercial and industrial facilities, new communities, urban revitalization, open space and public lands, waterfronts and marinas, parkways, recreational areas, parks and playgrounds, schools, universities, and pedestrian systems. Proponents argued that the scope of the work performed by landscape architects poses a potential for harm to the public and that the current law provides limited public protection because anyone may use the term "landscape architect." They also purported that not all jurisdictions allow certified landscape architects to prepare site plans and perform work for which they are properly trained and educated.

Comments were also received from numerous landscape designers and nurserymen who questioned the need for a licensure program. Opponents argued that there is no threat to public safety, and that mandatory licensing would restrict the practice of many individuals in the landscape design, nursery and horticulture industry and therefore limit competition. Trade associations representing allied professions (professional engineers, architects and land surveyors) also argued that the current law provides public protection, and warned that certain activities should be excluded from the practice entitlement of landscape architects whether they are certified or licensed.

It is obvious to the Board that there are thinly drawn lines for defining work performed by various practitioners and professionals in this industry. While such competition is in the public interest, those individuals who have met state certification standards should be so

identified. The Board finds that the current regulatory system provides public protection, but may be misleading to the consumer. The Board concludes that a licensure program is not warranted, but recommends that the General Assembly amend Section 54.1-400 et seq. to protect and reserve usage of the terms “landscape architect” and “certified landscape architect” only for those individuals who have been certified as landscape architects by the state.

II. Introduction

A. Background and purpose of report

The 1980 General Assembly passed legislation initiating a voluntary certification program for landscape architects in Virginia. The program is administered by the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. There are currently 411 certified landscape architects in Virginia.

In 1991, the Board of Commerce was asked to study whether landscape architects should be deregulated. The conclusion of the study was that insufficient evidence was presented to justify a mandatory licensing program, but that it was in the public interest to have a program at the state level to certify education and experience. The report stated, “a voluntary system allows other, competitive industries and individuals to exist in the marketplace.”

Senate Joint Resolution 431, introduced by Senator John Watkins in the 1999 General Assembly, requested the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation to study whether there exists a need to change the current level of regulation of landscape architects in the Commonwealth from certification to licensure. The resolution noted that the current law may not adequately protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from unqualified persons practicing landscape architecture and representing themselves to the public as landscape architects. The Board was instructed to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly. See Appendix A for a copy of Senate Joint Resolution 431.

B. Statutory authority

Section 54.1-310 of the *Code of Virginia* provides the statutory authority for the Board to study and recommend regulation of professions and occupations. The code further outlines the degrees of regulation as well as the steps for determining the proper degree of regulation, if any.

Section 54.1-311 B.

In determining the proper degree of regulation, if any, the Board, shall determine the following:

1. Whether the practitioner, if unregulated, performs a service for individuals involving a hazard to the public health, safety or welfare.
2. The opinion of a substantial portion of the people who do not practice the particular profession, trade or occupation on the need for regulation.

3. The number of states which have regulatory provisions similar to those proposed.
4. Whether there is sufficient demand for the service for which there is no regulated substitute and this service is required by a substantial portion of the population.
5. Whether the profession or occupation requires high standards of public responsibility, character and performance of each individual engaged in the profession or occupation, as evidenced by established and published codes of ethics.
6. Whether the profession or occupation requires such skill that the public generally is not qualified to select a competent practitioner without some assurance that he has met minimum qualifications.
7. Whether the professional or occupational associations do not adequately protect the public from incompetent, unscrupulous or irresponsible members of the profession or occupation.
8. Whether current laws which pertain to public health, safety and welfare generally are ineffective or inadequate.
9. Whether the characteristics of the profession or occupation make it impractical or impossible to prohibit those practices of the profession or occupation which are detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.
10. Whether the practitioner performs a service for others which may have a detrimental effect on third parties relying on the expert knowledge of the practitioner.

C. Methodology

In order to obtain information, the following methods were used:

- Review of current statutes and regulations regarding the certification of landscape architects;
- Review of complaints filed against certified landscape architects;
- Review of "A Report On The Need For A Regulatory Program For Landscape Architects," a June 1991 study of the Virginia Board of Commerce;

- Review of other state requirements for landscape architects;
- A public hearing and the solicitation of written comments including mailings to:
 - All certified landscape architects;
 - Membership of the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers;
 - Membership of the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association; and other interested parties;
- Consultation with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards; and
- Consultation with offices of consumer affairs.

III. Findings

A. Profile of the industry

Section 54.1-400 of the *Code of Virginia* defines the practice of landscape architecture by a certified landscape architect as, any service wherein the principles and methodology of landscape architecture are applied in consultation, evaluation, planning (including the preparation and filing of sketches, drawings, plans and specifications) and responsible supervision or administration of contracts relative to projects principally directed at the functional and aesthetic use of land.

Virginia landscape architects seeking state certification must successfully pass an examination after meeting requirements for education or experience, or both. The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards administers the Landscape Architect Registration Examination.

Landscape architects typically have completed a four- to five-year undergraduate or three-year graduate professional degree in a university architecture program. There are currently seventy-six accredited landscape architecture programs in the United States. Twenty-four of these programs are master level programs. Virginia has three accredited programs in landscape architecture, and the curriculum, as submitted to the board for review, includes courses in design, technology, theory and method. Design studio courses cover the design or layout of human activities on land. This includes site master planning related to housing, recreation, institutional and other developments, land use planning, the layout of vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems, developing and understanding regulations affecting land development and environmental impact assessment and mitigation. Technology courses cover subject matter related to the techniques and methods used to implement landscape design and planning such as site grading and draining, storm water runoff calculations, and other similar subject matter.

Landscape architects purported that their work includes everything from the smallest garden to a park of several thousand acres. Examples of work include planning and design for:

- commercial and industrial facilities
- new communities
- urban revitalization
- open space and public lands
- memorials
- waterfronts and marinas
- parkways
- recreational areas, parks, playgrounds and resorts
- pedestrian and vehicular circulation and transportation systems
- cultural places, zoos, arboretums, museums, amphitheaters
- cemeteries
- residential environments
- schools and universities
- public and private gardens

Written comments supported the important role of the landscape architect on the “design team” for many city and state projects. These comments supported landscape architects as professionals who provide a bridge between the built environment and the natural environment. However, Section 54.1-409 of the *Code of Virginia* allows local and state authorities to determine if they will accept the seal, stamp or certification of a certified landscape architect. Some Virginia counties do not permit landscape architects to present site plans for building projects. The Board views this inability to present site plans for projects in various Virginia localities as the economic impetus for landscape architects seeking state licensure.

The spokesperson for the Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia testified at the public hearing that few people understand the education and training of landscape architects and their scope of practice. Proponents for licensure believe this lack of information and understanding prevents landscape architects from preparing site plans and performing other work for which they are qualified. In addition, the law does not prevent anyone from identifying themselves as a landscape architect regardless of their education and training.

B. Allied professions and practices

It was evident to the Board that the practice of landscape architecture overlaps with the practice of engineering, architecture, land surveying, landscape design and horticulture. Throughout the public hearing and the written comments, individuals attempted to define the difference between landscape architects and landscape designers and horticulturists, and to

demarcate where the activities of landscape architects take over from those of engineers, architects, landscape designers or even surveyors.

The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers (VSLA) argued that “there is a substantial middle range of work for which both professions are qualified.” The VSLA supported their position by noting that there is no consistency in how landscape architects and landscape designers are defined in other states’ licensing laws.

The Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc. submitted concerns that the licensure of landscape architects should not imply limits on the work of licensed land surveyors in preparing site, subdivision and other development plans, etc. Likewise, the Joint Legislative Committee representing the Virginia Society of American Institute of Architects, the Consulting Engineer’s Council of Virginia and the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers argued that certain practice areas which overlap into the area of engineering should be excluded from the practice entitlement of landscape architects whether they are certified or licensed.

The Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia addressed this issue by stating, “with an understanding that overlapping practice is endemic to all professions – and that lawmakers have taken a dim view of assigning exclusive rights to undertake work when more than one profession is capable – it is important to set limits and parameters on overlapping practice areas based on the education, experience, and examination criteria for licensure of landscape architects.”

The Board recognizes the overlapping practices in this industry and the economic impact that could result from the creation of new restrictions.

C. Public harm

The Enforcement Division of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation provided information regarding complaints filed against certified landscape architects. In Fiscal Year 1997, one complaint was filed. There were no complaints filed in Fiscal Year 1998, Fiscal Year 1999, or to date in Fiscal Year 2000.

As part of the Board’s research, staff contacted consumer affairs offices throughout the Commonwealth. Consumer complaints filed at these offices are generally combined with other “green industry” services such as lawn mowing companies and nurseries. The Fairfax County Division of Consumer Affairs reported that most complaints are about nurseries. The Virginia Beach Consumer Affairs Office did a two-year search and found one complaint regarding a landscape architect. The records did not indicate whether the landscape architect was state certified.

Proponents of licensure argued that it is difficult for professionals to involve themselves in documenting improper practice. One certified landscape architect provided an example of

improper practice at an office park where the landscape design included shrub plantings at the ends of the medians of the roads and near the intersections. Grass had been planted along the medians away from the intersections. The individual argued that the plantings should have been reversed because the shrubs blocked the views of oncoming traffic for drivers crossing the intersections. Another certified landscape architect submitted that unqualified landscape architects perform work that result in problems such as a soccer field at a public park in Richmond where the design resulted in unsafe, steep swales and problems with erosion and inadequate storm water detention.

The Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia did not submit examples of practice that posed a threat to the public, but argued the potential for harm based on the type of work performed. The proponents stated that poor design of site plans can lead to injury or death and cause grave economic damages, e.g., improper design of recreational and play facilities could lead to injury or death, improper design of grading, drainage and erosion control could result in injury or death and damage to property, or improper design of site vehicular circulation systems could result in injury or death.

The Board notes the absence of consumer concerns regarding landscape architects. While landscape architects are not required to be certified by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Board believes that if consumers were dissatisfied with a landscape architect, whether certified or not, they would complain to this agency and the records do not reveal such consumer frustration. There does not appear to be concern that the current regulatory program does not adequately protect public health, safety or welfare.

D. Regulation in other states

The National Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) provided a summary of other state statutes regarding the practice of landscape architects. According to this information, forty-seven states currently regulate landscape architects. Twenty-six of those states specifically restrict the practice of landscape architecture to regulants. The remaining twenty-one states, including Virginia, have title laws that restrict the use of the title "landscape architect."

The Board cautioned, however, that it is difficult to categorize state laws as either "practice" or "title." A review of some state statutes reveals that even a practice law provides exemptions for individuals performing related trades or professions. For example, while Arkansas is listed as a practice law state, the statute includes an exemption from licensure for the "practice of foresters, gardeners, nurserymen, landscape contractors, home builders, floriculturists, ornamental horticulturists performing their respective trades or professions." Likewise, Kentucky which is listed as a practice and title law state, includes the following statutory exemption "nothing in this chapter shall be construed as restricting or otherwise affecting the right of any individual to engage in the occupation of growing and marketing nursery stock or to use the title nurseryman, landscape nurseryman, or gardener, or the right of any individual to plan or plant his own property." The Kentucky law further states,

“nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict nurserymen or gardeners from preparing and executing planting plans.”

E. Public comments

The Board conducted a public hearing in Richmond on May 13, 1999, to hear public comment regarding the need for licensure of landscape architects. In addition, the Board requested written comments.

The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers, the Landscape Designers Group, and the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association spoke in opposition to a licensure program. Representatives of these associations argued that a licensure law would stifle competition and limit consumer options. They informed the Board that landscape design has been a profession for centuries and a licensure law could put many landscape designers out of business. As an association, they do not support anyone using the title landscape architect unless they have been fully certified and are qualified to do so by their national professional association, but questioned whether the economic benefits of licensure would accrue to the landscape architects at the expense of a much larger group of individuals in the industry. One landscape designer supported this position by noting that she has built gardens for thirty years, but a licensure program with education requirements would prohibit her from working. She encouraged the Board to oppose licensure because the local codes provide necessary public protection. The President of the Virginia Business Council also questioned the need for licensure since there was no public outcry for a change in the law.

The Landscape Architecture Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University provided the Board information on the knowledge and skills obtained through education in a landscape architecture degree and how that is directly related to public health, safety and welfare. Likewise, the resorts project coordinator for the City of Virginia Beach and the planning director for Chesterfield County urged the Board to recommend a licensure program because landscape architects provide such a unique talent in the design process and currently the term “landscape architect” is used very loosely.

Representatives from the Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia and the American Society of Landscape Architects urged the Board to recommend a licensure program. Spokespersons noted that a licensure act would have due respect for the nursery industry and landscape designers. Other states have such practice acts and these industries are doing well, but that licensure is warranted to protect the public.

The Board received numerous written comments, which supplemented the public hearing testimony. Supportive comments were received from cities and school planning departments noting landscape architects’ contributions to the design of various building projects and how those projects affect public health, safety and welfare. In contrast, the Board received letters of opposition from landscape designers and other horticultural practitioners who viewed

the licensure proposal as an attempt by the national landscape architecture associations to place restrictions on the work others can perform.

Some individual architects and professional engineers offered support for licensure noting that landscaping is a critical issue in all site development. However, one architect objected noting that “professions are undergoing a dilution by those who practice a vocation and call themselves ‘licensed professionals’.” He argued that as a result, the public has no means of discerning a professional.

The Joint Committee Representing the Virginia Society, American Institute of Architects, Consulting Engineer’s Council of Virginia and Virginia Society of Professional Engineers were unconvinced that landscape architects should be licensed. The Joint Committee warned that a licensure program could include a range of practice entitlement that could overlap into the areas of architecture and engineering and that such practice entitlement should not become an “exclusive” rather than “permissive” area of practice.

The Virginia Association of Surveyors (VAS) did not issue a final position regarding the licensure of landscape architects, but also issued concerns regarding a licensure program that could imply limits on licensed land surveyors. This association also offered their views on “landscape plans” which consist of designating tree, shrub and other vegetative materials and planting beds. The VAS purported that “generally, these plans are prepared by landscape designers.” While others, including landscape architects, land surveyors, architects and engineers may also provide this service, the VAS warned that those professionals who currently prepare landscape plans should be allowed to continue doing so.

The Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects proposed statutory language for the licensure of landscape architects and their rationale for why a licensure program is necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare. While this committee did not provide examples of public harm, they offered that the very nature of work performed by landscape architects does affect public health, safety and welfare. In addition, the proponents argued that the public is not affected by other means because the current law does not prohibit anyone from identifying himself or herself as a landscape architect.

IV. Conclusions and recommendation

Based on a review of all the findings, the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation concludes that a licensure program is not warranted for landscape architects. The Board concludes that there are thinly drawn lines for defining work performed by various practitioners and professionals in the landscape industry. Absent a threat to public health, safety and welfare, it is imperative that such practitioners and professionals be able to compete in the marketplace as clearly stated in Section 54.1-409 of the Code. The Board concludes, however, that the current regulatory system appears to be misleading to the public since a person can lawfully use the designation “landscape architect” without having met any qualifications.

The regulated population understands that certification is a voluntary program while licensure is mandatory. However, the Board believes that public perception is that certification and licensure are different sides of the same coin. Consumers fail to question whether a “landscape architect” has the designation of “certified landscape architect” and therefore met minimum qualifications.

While a licensure program is not warranted, the Board recommends that Section 54.1-409 be amended to state that “No person shall hold himself out as, or use the title of ‘landscape architect’ or ‘certified landscape architect’ unless he has been certified pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.”

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 431

Requesting the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation to study whether there exists a need to change the current level of regulation of landscape architects in the Commonwealth from certification to licensure.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 19, 1999

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 1999

WHEREAS, landscape architects offer landscape architectural services as a part of the design process for the development of places frequented by the public, which process protects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in certain instances, the improper provision of landscape architectural services may present a threat of irreparable harm to the safety of individuals and the health of the environment; and

WHEREAS, neither the average consumer nor the public can be reasonably expected to recognize incompetent or defective landscape architectural work and any potential harm related thereto; and

WHEREAS, landscape architects are well trained in the discipline of landscape architecture, which is distinguishable from the disciplines of professional engineering, architecture, and land surveying, and involves different areas and types of education, training, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, landscape designers and other landscape service providers offer valuable landscape-related services which contribute to the visual and environmental quality of the Commonwealth and the convenience and enjoyment of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the current level of regulation may not adequately protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from unqualified persons practicing landscape architecture and representing themselves to the public as landscape architects; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation is authorized by § 54.1-310 of the Code of Virginia to evaluate professions and occupations for consideration of whether such professions and occupations should be licensed, and to make recommendations as the public interest requires to the General Assembly concerning such regulation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation be requested to study whether there exists a need to change the current level of regulation of landscape architects in the Commonwealth from certification to licensure; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That in studying this issue, the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation also gives due consideration to the education, training, and appropriate scope of practice of landscape architects as compared to those design professionals currently licensed by the Commonwealth, and to the right of landscape designers and other landscape-related service providers to engage in their occupations.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation for this study, upon request.

The Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

**Summary of Written Comments
Study Pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 431
Licensure of Landscape Architects**

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
William D. Almond, ASLA, Shriver and Holland	Submitted examples of landscape architecture completed by his firm and how such work affects health, safety and welfare. The landscape architect's role in the preservation and enhancement of environmental quality in Virginia also affects the health and welfare of Virginians.
Anthony L. Arnold, P.E., Director, Facilities Planning and Construction, Virginia Beach City Public Schools	Supports licensure for landscape architects. Has seen first hand the role landscape architects play in the health, safety and welfare of the community. Accessibility laws and regulations require detailed knowledge of building codes and federal regulations for design of pavements, walks, ramps, railings, etc.
Jill E. Yutan, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission	Supports licensure of landscape architects. Resides in Virginia, but is licensed in Maryland and Texas. Certification does not adequately address the technical expertise required to prepare construction documents for residential as well as large, institutional and commercial projects. The current certification program poses the potential for serious harm.
James Urban, ASLA	Urges licensure of landscape architects. Holds a license to practice in Maryland and New York. Proper training in the matters of aesthetic and community design will improve the general welfare of the public. Landscape architects daily influence public health and safety.
Barbara Schuler, Custom Gardens, Inc.	Licensure could seriously and adversely affect the hundreds of professionals working as landscape designers. The criteria of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> regarding licensure have not been met. Certification adequately protects the public. In addition, state, county and municipal code requirements protect the public.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
David W. Reynal, City Manager, Manassas	Encourages licensure of landscape architects. Has worked with landscape architects in public improvements and believes professional licensing would reflect the knowledge of health, safety and welfare issues required to perform responsibilities.
Cal Allen, Vice President of Sales, BEGA	As a major supplier of specification-grade exterior lighting used both on buildings, etc., he notes that landscape architects often have the sole responsibility of selecting proper lighting to illuminate exterior spaces, buildings, as well as city streets and parks. Supports licensure.
Kristi J. Apperson, Salisbury Country Club	Landscape architects and landscape designers are two entirely different professional classes and inclusion of landscape designers in regulatory action would be detrimental to a vital portion of Virginia's green industry.
Claire R. Askew, Director, Parks and Recreation, City of Chesapeake	Supports licensure of landscape architects having worked on various park projects with them.
John L. Combs, P.E., Resource International, Ltd.	Believes licensing of landscape architects should be licensed to help protect health, safety and welfare of Virginians.
Richard G. Poole, Shriver and Holland Associates	Supports licensure as a licensed architect who has worked with landscape architects on projects of varying size and complexity. Landscape architects integrate the ideas and concepts of architecture and engineering disciplines into an organized whole on many different scales. Landscape architects have responsibility for addressing site safety and accessibility concerns as well as long terms issues of environmental sustainability.
Gerrie King West, AIA, Folk & West	Supports licensure to ensure that landscape architects are held to the highest standard of their profession. Uses landscape architects and professional engineers on project teams to provide knowledge of building codes, safety issues, design and construction considerations, etc. Licensure would ensure competency.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Joseph T. Gaber, Shriver and Holland Associates	Supports licensure. As a licensed architect, believes it is time to require licensure of landscape architects under the same criteria as other design professionals.
M. David Jester, President, Marlyn Development Corporation	Their company has seen the role of landscape architect grow dramatically with clients and cities. Municipalities are demanding a bond or letter of credit for the purpose of making sure the landscape design has been implemented and remains in good condition for one year after completion of project.
John R. McAden, L.S., Balzer and Associates, Inc.	Certification is inadequate because it does not protect the public from unqualified persons legally practicing landscape architecture and representing themselves as landscape architects. Regulating a professional title while not regulating professional practice confuses the public and endangers people and the environment.
Michael E. Perry, ASLA	Strongly recommends licensure so that citizens may receive the quality product that a licensed landscape architect provides. Landscape architects are trained to use the earthscape and natural beauty of the setting while simultaneously promoting protection by using the site's topographical assets to their advantage.
David J. Moniot, AIA	Opposes licensure of landscape architects. Believes the underlying reason for licensure is to legitimize professional status by entrenchment into the verbiage of state regulating authorities. No public safety issues are involved. Licensure should be for professionals that have completed extensive training, passed rigorous examinations, for those who practice to ensure public safety and adhere to a code of ethics for fairness to all parties.
Dean E. Hawkins, ASLA	Supports licensure. The designation will not be detrimental to any other persons doing business in Virginia. It will simply make clear who landscape architects are and what they specialize in. The profession needs to be licensed to reflect true abilities and responsibilities.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Marshall Jones, Certified Landscape Designer	Concerned that landscape architects are trying to eliminate landscape designers as a profession by requiring licensure. Believes health, safety and welfare are already protected. Proposed licensure could stifle competition and limit consumers' options in consulting various horticultural service professionals. Licensure would result in increased cost to consumers with no guarantee of increased public protection.
Rob McGinnis, Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects	Submitted a report with information on the undergraduate and graduate landscape architectural degree programs in Virginia, and a report composed of letters compiled in 1991 supporting the licensure of landscape architects.
A.J. Shoosmith, Shoosmith's Hillside Garden	There will be too few landscape architects to handle the public needs if professional landscape designers are not allowed to provide their usual services. Property owners will be the victims.
Jay L. Jorgensen, Fairfax County Park Authority	Supports the licensure of landscape architects as a way to ensure the safety and welfare of citizens that use facilities designed by landscape architects.
Claire R. Askew, Director, Chesapeake Parks and Recreation	Supports licensure of landscape architects.
Donald W. Bahlman, Jr., Virginia Beach City Public Schools	The role of landscape architects on the A/E team has expanded to include protection of wetlands, ADA accessibility, site drainage, and public relations when a project has an effect on adjacent districts and neighborhoods, etc. The general public is better protected, particularly on public sites, with a licensed landscape architect.
Barbara L. Franklin, Pine Island Designs	Works with individual homeowners who wish to renovate and upgrade their city gardens. The profession of landscape designer is very different from landscape architect and it would be inappropriate to merge the two professions and apply the same standards.
Patricia M. Brooks, Buxton Farm	Health, safety and welfare are already protected. Licensure could stifle competition and limit consumer's options.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Paul L. Baldino, Fairfax County Park Authority	Supports licensure of landscape architects as a way to ensure the safety and welfare of citizens as they use recreational facilities designed and constructed under the supervision of landscape architects.
Ron M. Kagawa, Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning	Landscape architects should be licensed to protect the public. There is potential for harm to the general public, damage to property and financial liability resulting from unqualified persons practicing landscape architecture.
Robert J. Scott, Planning Director, City of Virginia Beach	Landscape architects have been effective in Virginia Beach by addressing both the aesthetic needs and the need to develop the economic vitality, which contributes to the public welfare.
Alexander H. Decker, Isle of Wight County Schools	Supports licensure of landscape architects. These professionals provide expertise to guide landscape decisions that effectively balance environmental, aesthetic and cost concerns in the construction of school facilities.
Jane Macleish, Landscape Designer	Disturbed at the prospect of potential loss of the professional status of landscape designers. Landscape designers provide services that are desired and appreciated by the public, and they should be allowed to continue doing so. Residential work was of no interest to landscape architects until the economic downturn.
R. Stan Tatum, Land Planning & Design Associates	Licensure is the most appropriate way to regulate the profession in order to assure that those who practice have the proper training, experience and capability. Landscape architects have become more involved in large and complex projects from dense urban environments to large-scale public works projects and the full range of private sector involvement.
Sharron T. Cochran, Landscape Design	Licensure could mean the possible loss of the professional status for landscape designers. The proposed definition is too general. Licensure could stifle competition and limit consumers' options. It could also result in increased cost to consumers. Licensure could put large numbers of professionals out of work.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Joseph N. Morgan, Pulaski County	Supports licensure of landscape architects. It would be beneficial for the Commonwealth that the designation as a landscape architect not be assumed by unqualified individuals.
John L. Blackburn, Certified Landscape Architect, U.S. Navy	Has designed or had direct oversight for the building of roadways, storm drainage, plazas and courtyards, child development play equipment, planting designs, beach stabilization, housing development, monument designs, etc. The Navy requires a professional stamp and signature on all such work. Licensure will benefit the general public by reducing the number of people who are not qualified, by education and practice, to call themselves landscape architects.
W. Carter Winn, Jr., Winn Nursery	Opposed to any restrictions involving planting design, but does support the licensing of landscape architects.
Leonard Morrow, Ph.D., J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	Many landscape designers view the study resolution as de facto ending of their careers and income. Main concern is the very limited training which landscape architects receive in the educational system in the use of plant materials.
Sarah S. Boasberg, Garden Design	Opposes licensure of landscape architects. As a landscape designer, she has provided largely residential work, but has also done planting designs for playgrounds, apartment complexes and condominiums. A licensure program could prevent her from performing her services.
John W. Myers, Retired Architect	Recognizes the important work of landscape architects. Believes it is time for Virginia to recognize the need for licensure of landscape architects, similar to the requirements for other design professionals.
Frank Pascoe, Falls Landscape Design	Landscape designers provide services and at fees which would not interest landscape architects. If landscape architects were only allowed to perform these functions, the cost to the consumer would rise significantly. Care should be given to avoid elimination of the landscape designers.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Joseph C. Coppedge, Land Surveyor	Fails to understand why another licensed profession is needed. Cannot see how the practice of landscape architecture as defined in the current regulations could be a danger to the public unless an individual practiced beyond this definition in which case the person would be practicing architecture, engineering or land surveying. The professions, which pose a danger to public health, safety and welfare, are already licensed.
Robin A. Rinaca, Eastern Shore Nursery of Virginia	Opposes the proposed licensing of landscape architects. Such action would eventually lead to less competition and fewer choices. State and local codes already protect the consumer. Virginians do not need more licensing and fewer choices.
Robert L. Pack, Pointe West Management Company	Believes it is extremely important to have licensed landscape architects that are knowledgeable and have the skills and ability to guide in very sensitive issues surrounding our environment.
R. Lance Terpenney, Town of Christiansburg, Virginia	Landscape architects have become very active in land use issues, including site selection, storm water management, traffic flow, and construction detailing. Professional licensure could only benefit the citizens of Virginia by protecting the natural resources while supporting and managing the growth of our localities.
Mary Williams, Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association	Association opposes the licensing of landscape architects. Association's research has shown that the American Society of Landscape Architects has promoted the licensure status. Every state where a "title" law is gained, the landscape architects have subsequently returned to get a "practice" law and then place restrictive measures on the work that is performed by landscape designers and landscape nurserymen. There is considerable overlap in the services provided and thus it is impossible to clearly define the activity of the landscape architect without including the activities provided by most nurserymen.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
David Laird, Retired Nurseryman	Served as a lobbyist for the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1979, the association agreed to a compromise with the landscape architects provided that they would seek no restriction on what is a broad field of practice. The only real difference between landscape architects and landscape designers/nurserymen is that the latter go further in offering a turnkey package including design and installation. The associations for all these professions demand observation of strict rules of ethics from their members to protect their industry. Problems will always occur, but the consumer has adequate redress through the civil courts and is better protected than by state regulation.
Charles R. Ansell, AIA, ASA Architects	Landscaping is a critical issue in all site development. As an architect, developer, and building owner, licensure of landscape architects is assurance that the person employed is qualified to protect everyone's interest.
Vaughn B. Rinner, ASLA, Langley and McDonald	Supports licensure of landscape architects. Landscape architects are trained in a program as rigorous, or more so, than other design professionals. The public would benefit from a licensure program for landscape architects.
Keith Oliver, Langley and McDonald	Stresses the importance of licensure for public protection.
Tom B. Langley, P.E., Langley and McDonald	Public would be better protected by licensure of landscape architects and landscape architectural licensure should be treated in the same way as that of engineers, architects and surveyors.
Lysa Lawson, Langley and McDonald	Supports licensure of landscape architects. Landscape architects provide services on a broad range of project types. They receive what is probably the most intense technical background relating to site development of all design professions. Allowing improper landscape architectural practice to continue will jeopardize the welfare of the public.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
James K. Spore, City Manager, City of Virginia Beach	Landscape architects have provided for the safety and well being of Virginia Beach citizens and visitors by ensuring the areas are physically accessible for persons with disabilities, attractive and environmentally sound, safely lighted and signed, and safely organized for a combination of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian uses. Supports licensures of landscape architects.
Susan B. Hornbostel, Landscape Design	Landscape designers' work includes consultation with the client, design of exterior spaces, using plants and hardscape and working with licensed landscape contractors to install the design. Work is always constructed according to code of the jurisdiction and in consultation with architects, engineers and arborists when necessary. Does not agree with licensure proposal.
Pat Howell, Deephaven Landscapers	Opposes the proposed definition of landscape architecture, which would elevate the professional status of the small professional group, the landscape architects, at the expense of the larger group, the landscape designers. Work done by landscape designers is regulated by extensive code requirements so the public's health, safety and welfare are protected.
Micolien van Schouwen and Corinna Posner, European Garden Design	Have a small business and do not want to work for a landscape architect doing the same work for less income. Urges the board to protect the landscape design profession.
Linda A. Anson, Fresh Air Garden Designs	Typical landscape designers are college-educated, responsible citizens and business owners. Landscape designers understand grading and drainage issues and call appropriate professionals to design and build the necessary retaining wall, etc. While the landscape architects may not intend to restrict the practice of landscape designers, history in many other states has proven otherwise.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
George Hazelrigg, McLean, Student at George Washington University Landscape Design Program	Chose landscape design as a second career, and concerned about the loss of professional status. Landscape designers are trained in the entire design process and the need to address public health, safety and welfare issues is repeatedly reinforced. Public protection is assured when landscape professionals meet the state, county or municipal requirements. Understands that landscape architects want to receive recognition like architects and engineers, but concerned that an attempt to “right a wrong” could well “wrong a right.”
John M. Gordon, Garden Reflections	Concerned that a licensure law would not permit landscape designers to practice as they have for decades. The health, welfare and safety concerns are addressed because landscape designers use the services of professional engineers and architects.
Nancy Carter, Student at George Washing University Landscape Design Program	Homeowners will be poorly served if licensing law is enacted. The costs of a degree in landscape architecture will undoubtedly be passed on to the homeowner in the form of higher costs and fewer choices. Proposal would be unfair to landscape designers.
John A. Hopke, AIA, Hopke & Associates	Landscape architects, because of their training, possess a qualitative understanding of spatial relationships that enable them to appreciate pedestrian safety concerns. Supports licensure.
Kenneth A. Schwartz, AIA, Schwartz-Kinnard	Strongly supports licensure of landscape architects. The public would be well served and have reasonable assurance that the practitioner has a basic level of knowledge, skill and experience in the field of landscape architecture.
Donald F. Lederer, Certified Landscape Architect	Supports licensure of landscape architects. They have the education, and perform services that involve the public health, safety and welfare.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Diana J. Marahrens, Accolades Landscape Designs	Concerned that a licensure program would have a negative impact on the profession of landscape design. Protecting the public health, safety and welfare is the responsibility of all landscape professionals, not just the landscape architects.
Robert H. Fitz, Jr., Certified Landscape Architect, Koontz Bryant, P.C.	Supports mandatory licensure. Licensure should not pose a threat to other design professionals as long as those individuals legally engage in only those services for which they have been properly educated and trained.
Thornton Burnet, Concepts & Contours	Strongly opposed to the protectionist restrictive proposal for licensure of landscape architects. The issue of potential endangerment to the public by design practitioners of landscape design who are not "licensed" should be a non-issue.
Katherine McConnell, Landscape Design	Landscape design courses include training in construction and engineering, code compliance and types of construction requiring specifications from landscape architects or civil engineers. Landscape designers subcontract to licensed contractors with the appropriate expertise. The proposal would add nothing to the public's safety since existing code requirements already address and enforce these matters.
R. Kevin Warhurst, Merrifield Garden Center	Licensing of landscape architects is totally unnecessary and unwarranted. Such a program will complicate matters and stifle the healthy competition that has worked. The criteria for licensure as outlined in the <i>Code of Virginia</i> have not been met. The current system meets the tradition of our state to allow citizens, absent serious intervening circumstances, the right to practice their chosen field.
Barbara E. Katz, London Landscapes	Small company offers highly personalized service in the design of gardens. The proposed licensure program seems to allow landscape designers to design only planting plans. There is plenty of work to go around in the current economy and there is room for different professional abilities. Opposes the proposal.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
<p>Kenneth G. Stepka, P.E., Joint Legislative Committee Representing the Virginia Society, American Institute of Architects, Consulting Engineer's Council of Virginia and Virginia Society of Professional Engineers</p>	<p>Position of the Committee that the case has not been made that landscape architects need to be licensed. If the Board does support a licensure program, much attention must be given to 1) ensuring that the appropriate exclusions from practice are clearly defined; 2) defining a range of practice entitlement that doesn't overlap into the areas of architecture and engineering; 3) ensuring that the areas of practice entitlement recommended correspond to the content of the professional degree program and the landscape architecture registration exam; 4) ensuring that the defined practice entitlement does not have the ability to become an "exclusive area of practice when a "permissive" area of practice is intended; and 5) ensuring that any practice entitlement for "incidental" practice is extended only to practitioners who are qualified to perform the "incidental" engineering or architecture.</p>
<p>Nancy E. Conklin, P.E., L.S., Chairperson for Committee for the Occupational Oversight of Land Surveyors, Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc.</p>	<p>Association has not taken a final position, but has following concerns: 1) terminology implying limits on land surveyors must be avoided; 2) the term "incidental" should be avoided as it tends to blur the scope of any definition; 3) licensing by grandfathering does not assure the protection of the public; 4) landscape plans are generally prepared by landscape designers and sometimes by landscape architects, land surveyors, architects and engineers. Any limiting of preparation of landscape plans to licensed landscape architects should be avoided.</p>
<p>Thomas O. McMahon, McMahon Homes, Inc.</p>	<p>Has used landscape designers in the development and building of residential and commercial real estate projects. The work of landscape designers are done in a timely fashion, according to code, and at a fair price. Licensure could increase the cost of doing business for no sound reason. Developers should be given the option of what professional they may hire.</p>
<p>Judith Pagnini, Fox Cross Creek Garden Designs</p>	<p>Oppose licensure for there is not sufficient evidence of improper practice that threatens the public.</p>

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
J. Barry Frankenfield, Certified Landscape Architect, City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation	Provides examples of the types of projects landscape architects are involved in and the concern that is given for the health and safety of the users. In most cases, the real value of landscape architects is to develop attractive, environmentally sound, and safe site improvements. Supports licensure.
Philip F. Metcalf, Washington Water Gardens	Concerned that this proposal would add yet one more cost to business expense solely as a reflection of a special interest group's ability to receive favoritism. The difference between a landscape architect and a landscape designer is that designers not only formulate the plan for a garden, but are also actively involved in the installation and work on residential gardens. This proposal is a restriction in the right-to-work.
Bruce E. Leuthold, Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority	Supports licensure for it would rightfully have landscape architects on equal professional status with the state licensed architects and engineers.
Tom Evans, Evangreen Landscape Nursery	Opposes licensing because there are no demonstrated cases where the practice of landscape design has been detrimental to the public.
Bill Mechnick, Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.	The skills required to practice landscape architecture tend to overlap with those of architects and civil engineers. Supports licensure.
David Todd Anhold, Land Planning & Design Associates, Inc.	Landscape architects are involved with planning, design and construction supervision of work that has a direct impact on the health, safety and welfare of the public. Supports licensure.
Michele R. Fletcher, Landscape Designer	Opposes licensure for there is overlap in many aspects of the work performed by landscape architects and landscape designers. There is inadequate evidence of improper practice endangering the public's health, safety and welfare. Existing laws are adequate.
Mike Landis, Landis Scapes & Associates	Opposes proposal that will eliminate competition and create a monopoly. Landscape designers have plans approved by a licensed public or structural engineer.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Jane Berger, Mary Cliver, Anne Irving The Garden Design Group	Oppose licensure. No consumers or groups are pushing for adoption of the proposed practice act except the landscape architects. Questions whether the objective is to restrict the practice of landscape designers and other professionals.
John S. Helms, Helms Landscape Design Services	Opposes licensure for it will limit the options of consumers and result in much higher costs. The landscape design profession should not be restricted unnecessarily.
James G. Dalton, CAE, Strategic Counsel	Citizens need access to environmental design services that landscape architects are uniquely suited to provide and would place their safety at risk if not performed competently. Secondly, the three primary design professions have merged in the way that they deliver their services and this merger makes uniform regulation a requirement by necessity.
Michael A. Davis, P.E., Town of Ashland	Individuals or jurisdiction engaging the services of a landscape architect should be entitled to the assurance that the highest standards have been met in a licensing procedure. Supports licensure.
Thomas F. Neil, American Home Landscape, Inc.	Landscape designers provide valuable services to people in all economic levels to improve the value of their business and residential properties. Proposal would create a closed market. Many people would have their jobs at risk if licensure is enacted. There is a need for both skills in this industry.
Meriweather Runwill, Meriweather Designs	Does not take jobs that are more involved with engineering and require a landscape architect. Questions whether the rubber stamp of a landscape architect adds to the kind of personal interaction landscape designers may have with clients in the design process.
Michael A. Davis, P.E., Town of Ashland	Supports licensure to give individuals and jurisdictions the assurance that the highest standards have been met.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Christine M. Sauer, The Verdant Garden	Experience has shown that landscape architects charge considerably higher fees than designers do and rightfully so given their education. The consumer should be given the right to decide whether they want to pay for training that may not be germane to their needs. The extensive and well-enforced codes already protect the public.
William N. Bissell, AIA, Shriver and Holland Associates	Licensure of landscape architects is quite appropriate. There is a need for very competent landscape design professionals who must function on the same level as, and interface directly with, other licensed professionals. They impact a volume of exterior space and there is an urgency to optimize the use of this space.
Larry S. Martin, AIA, Martin & Co. Architects, Inc.	It is frightening that anyone may refer to himself or herself as a landscape architect. Supports licensure.
R. Aaron Gay, Norfolk Public Schools	Supports raising the professional standard of landscape architects so that Virginia will be assured of receiving the best and most accurate information and assistance.
Elizabeth Kathryn Meyer, ASLA	Supports licensure. Landscape architects are involved in reshaping the earth's surface through earthwork operations and construction processes. They ensure the future health, safety and welfare of Virginians when they design with the land, rather than on the land. Licensure will acknowledge the expertise that is brought to a project by someone who has attended an accredited university program, interned under a professional in the field, and passed the national CLARB Exam.
Ellen L. Vogel, Certified Landscape Architect	Supports licensure and submits an example of poor and dangerous site layout, grade, etc. at the new soccer fields at a public park in Richmond. The design provides unsafe, steep swales and there are problems with erosion and inadequate stormwater detention.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Robert M. McLeod, Certified Landscape Architect	Provides an example of improper landscape architecture at an office park in Chesterfield County. The landscape design included shrub plantings at the ends of the medians of the roads, near intersections, and grass along the medians, away from the intersections. This should have been reversed. The shrubs block views of on-coming traffic for drivers crossing intersections. Supports licensure to avoid such problems and as a means of limiting or terminating the practice of those licensed landscape architects whose designs fail to protect the public.
Rob McGinnis, Committee for Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia representing certified landscape architects and the Virginia and Potomac Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects	Submits report and proposal for the licensure of landscape architects. The proposal includes 1) exemptions regarding professional engineers, architects and land surveyors ('B' surveyors) and exemptions regarding landscape designers, and other professionals and tradespersons involved in landscape design; 2) qualifications to apply for licensure as a landscape architect; 3) restriction on the use of the title "landscape architect;" and 4) the definition of the practice of landscape architecture.
Kathy N. McDaniel, Virginia Power	Concerned that landscape architects are noted for large-scale projects involving substantial land planning, and typically charge fees appropriate for this scale of development. Basic design prices could be driven into unaffordable ranges. Opposes licensure.
Jane W. Brickley	Opposes licensure because the ordinance and building codes already exist which define and limit the design work that may be proposed by landscape designers. The public is protected in a satisfactory and accountable fashion.
Herbert E. Fitzgerald, III, Realty Ventures Group, Inc.	Opposes licensure and sees the proponents' justification as absurd. Local governments adequately review plans submitted by landscape architects. There is no need for additional bureaucracy.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
R. Lewis Boggs, Property Investment Advisors, Inc.	The business of planning for the development of land has become more complex. Supports having landscape architects who are licensed to practice.
E. Bryson Powell, Midlothian Enterprises, Inc.	Supports licensure of landscape architects because of the important role they play in residential development.
Patricia M. Brooks, Designs on Nature	There is room for both professions. Licensure could seriously limit the client's options as well as decrease healthy competition. The consumer is presently protected by code requirements in the state and county.
Joseph R. Buckely, Buckley Associates, Inc.	Graduated with a degree in landscape architecture, but Fairfax County did not accept a stamp of a landscape architect so never got the certification. Now concerned that certificate holders will not be grandfathered. Example given of an approved site plan that was incorrect because the homeowner failed to work with a qualified landscape architect.
Lewis A. McMurrin, III, President, McCale Development Corporation	Supports licensure because the landscape architectural services are inherently different from other professionals used by developers. Landscape architects address the environmental and aesthetic quality and impact of their design decisions. The current level of regulation is insufficient.
Carol N. Pilgrim, Virginia Society of Landscape Designers	Association opposes licensure of landscape architects. Such action could have an adverse economic impact on the horticulture industry and the public that it serves. There are overlapping similarities between landscape architects and landscape designers. A review of the status of state laws shows that there is no consistency in how landscape architects and landscape designers are defined nationwide. There is no demonstrated need for a change in the current form of regulation. Concerned that once licensure is enacted, the landscape architects will return to the General Assembly to restrict the practice of landscape designers and other horticultural professions.

**Summary of Public Hearing Comments
 Licensure of Landscape Architects
 May 13, 1999
 Richmond, VA**

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Chip Powell, Landscape Management Services, Inc.	Believes sufficient regulation exists and no further regulation is necessary for the installation of landscape lighting and the associated equipment. The National Electric Code addresses landscape lighting and it is enforced by the local building code inspector. In addition, manufacturers and distributors provide helpful information on installation. Class A electrical contractors or licensed master electricians can design the wiring required for landscape lighting. There are existing means for protecting the public.
Carol Pilgrim, Virginia Society of Landscape Designers	Landscape design has been a profession for centuries, and includes individuals who engage for a fee in the consultation, planning, design, and construction of exterior spaces utilizing plant materials and incidental paving and building materials. Supports the existing title law for landscape architects. A licensure law would stifle competition and limit consumer options. While there is no guarantee that this would improve public protection, it would likely increase the cost of these activities and potentially affect thousands of landscape professionals throughout Virginia.
Ennion Williams, Dover Nurseries	Landscape architects need not be licensed because their profession does not affect the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. There is no significant evidence that consumers have complained or experienced problems that would warrant increased regulation. The lack of consumer complaints makes it obvious that the motivation for licensure is in the interest of landscape architects who seek to restrict competition.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Jeff Schell, Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association	Opposed to licensing of landscape architects because it could potentially limit the ability of others to practice. Proposal will have detrimental economic repercussions on the association's members, the green industry and the Commonwealth. Does not believe the public health, safety and welfare is in jeopardy. The Virginia nursery and landscape industry have provided and implemented standards and specifications to adequately protect the public and will continue to do so.
Tom Flynn, Wilbur Smith Associates	Presented an example of a multi-level parking structure at George Mason University that demonstrates that landscape architects are involved in the design of facilities involving the health, safety and welfare of the public. The landscape architect had responsibilities including the vehicular access to the local road system. The landscape architect was also involved in the development of columns and footings, drainage and erosion control, retaining walls, etc. Supports licensure of landscape architects for these projects.
Gwynne Lincoln, Landscape Designer	Opposes licensure of landscape architects. A practice law would ultimately limit or even prevent some landscape designers from working. The current regulations adequately provide for the health, safety and welfare of consumers. As a designer, she refers clients to landscape architects when necessary. Notes that what a landscape architect or designer designs and what a consumer may ultimately install may be completely different. Questions whether we would need to license the installer as well.
Thomas Jacobson, Planning Director of Chesterfield County	Landscape architects bring a unique talent in that they understand the interrelationships between the natural environment and the built environment. Supports licensure as a means of communicating to the public the unique set of talents and skills that landscape architects possess. Landscape architects help build a better quality community.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Elaine Evans, Landscape Designers Group	A practice law determines who can continue to work in these kinds of activities. Eighteen states have title laws, twenty-seven states have practice laws, and five states do not have regulation of landscape architects. The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers and the Landscape Designers Group does not support anyone using the title of landscape architect unless they have been fully certified and are qualified to do so by their national professional association. Questions whether the economic benefits that will accrue to a smaller group will be at the expense of a larger group.
Richard Bidwell, Licensed Professional Engineer	Concerned that landscape architects have not presented sufficient evidence to meet the law's requirements for enactment of a licensure program.
Ken Stpeka, Virginia Society of Professional Engineers and the American Institute of Architects, Consulting Engineers Council of Virginia	As design professionals and allied professions, they are concerned about licensure of landscape architects. At this point, the advocates have not overcome the threshold of evidence to warrant licensure.
Jane Macleish, Landscape Designer	Has built gardens for thirty years with budgets ranging from several hundred to three million dollars. If a licensure program with education requirements was established, she would be unable to continue her work. Opposes licensure because the local codes protect the people, and landscape designers are very professional people who should not be obliterated.
Donna Pugh Johnson, President of Virginia Business Council	Supports the position of the nurserymen and landscape designers. Questions the public's outcry for more protection, and is concerned about those who could be disadvantaged by a change in the law.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Jerry Lawson, Virginia Society of Landscape Designers	Believes a landscape designer can do many of the jobs that landscape architects may do. If necessary, his firm would employ a construction or engineering firm to complete the work.
Patrick Miller, Professor and Head of Landscape Architecture Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Knowledge and skills obtained through education in landscape architecture are directly related to public health, safety, and welfare. The profession of landscape architecture is much broader than just the use of plants. A landscape architect is someone who builds the surface of the earth. Virginia has three accredited programs in landscape architecture, and the curriculum includes courses in design, technology, theory and method.
James Dalton, American Society of Landscape Architects	Supports a licensure practice act that has due respect for the nursery industry and landscape designers. The nursery and landscape design industries are doing well in those states that have enacted practice acts. The environmental movement and advent of CAD technology has resulted in the need for landscape architects to be licensed.
Rob Herdome, City of Virginia Beach	Uses the services of both engineers and landscape architects on major public projects. Licensure would assist officials in selecting qualified individuals for projects because the term landscape architect can be used very loosely.
Jack Hasten, Architect	Scale and complexity must be considered in any discussion of the licensure of landscape architects. Landscape architects may plan the entire arrangement of a site, including the location of buildings, grading, storm water management, construction and planning.
Tom Langley, Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor	Landscape architects provide integrated design service including grading, topography and storm water management. These special and particular issues require that individuals be qualified.
Samuel Anderson, University of Virginia	The public benefits from the enhanced skills brought by requiring landscape architects to be licensed.

Name and Affiliation	Summary of Comments
Richard Gibbons, Certified landscape Architect	The bulk of the master plans for Virginia's state parks have been prepared by landscape architects. Supports licensure because there is a need for equal standard and equal staffing among the principle design members of any project.
Peter Kirsch, American Society of Landscape Architects	The Society supports licensure and currently twenty-seven states have practice acts and nineteen have title acts. The Society's message is that landscape architecture is not gardening. Landscape architecture is about large-scale land use, planning ecology, grading water quality and facilitation.
Rob McGinnis, Certified Landscape Architect	The Committee for the Licensure of Landscape Architects in Virginia has documented improper practice across Virginia and will submit that information in writing. Supports licensure because anyone can call himself a landscape architect. The Committee never intended to regulate the planting industry.

