



# Landscape Architecture Licensure Laws

## ASLA Summary of Provisions

### MASSACHUSETTS

General Laws of Massachusetts: Part I, Title II, Chapter 112, Section 99  
Code of Massachusetts Regulations: Section 242

**Type of Law:** Title act.

#### **Board of Registration of Landscape Architects**

Four landscape architects and one public member appointed by the Governor.

**Powers:** Adopt necessary rules and regulations.

#### **Definitions**

**Landscape architect:** A person who holds a license entitling him to be called by the title landscape architect.

**Landscape architecture:** The performance of professional services, such as consultations, investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, design, or responsible supervision, in connection with the development of land and incidental water areas where and to the extent that the dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, naturalistic and esthetic values, the settings and approaches to buildings, structures, facilities or other improvements, and natural drainage and the consideration, determination and solution of inherent problems of the land relating to erosion, wear and tear, blight or other hazards. The practice of landscape architecture shall include the location and arrangement of such tangible objects and features as are incidental and necessary to the purposes outlined herein, but shall not include the practice of architecture, the practice of engineering or the practice of land surveying, as defined in the law, or the making of final land plots for official recording or approval. A landscape architect may, however, do such architectural, engineering and surveying work, as is incidental to his or her work.

[Diversified experience: a minimum of two years of full-time experience working in the field of landscape architecture, which was acquired after the satisfaction of the education requirement and under the direction of a registered or licensed landscape architect with a minimum of ten (10) years of licensed practice. Experience beyond the minimum 2 years may be considered if it is under a registered or licensed architect, engineer, land surveyor, certified planner or related government agency. Diversified experience includes some or all of the following:

- Project Programming
- Site & Environmental Analysis
- Code Research
- Feasibility Studies
- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Cost Estimating
- Project Coordination w/ clients and/or consultants
- Construction Documents (layout plans, grading plans, drainage plans, planting plans, sections & details, specifications, permits & approvals)
- Construction Administration (shop drawings & submittals, field observation)]

#### **Exemptions**

None.

Note: Bracketed [ ] material is drawn from regulations.

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American Society of Landscape Architects

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### **Eligibility Requirements – Initial Licensure**

Passage of a written examination which may be supplemented by an oral examination, as determined by the board, and graduation from an approved college or school of landscape architecture and two years of satisfactory experience. In lieu of graduation from an approved college or school of landscape architecture, an applicant must present evidence of at least six years of satisfactory practical experience. Credit may be given for approved college education at the discretion of the board.

Experience is defined as employment in the practice of landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a qualified individual licensed to practice landscape architecture. Training, practice, and knowledge in allied fields (architecture, engineering, horticulture, or planning) may be submitted for evaluation by the Board, which may consider such related experience germane to the qualifications of the applicant.

[Fee: Initial license and annual renewal, \$66.]

### **Eligibility Requirements – Reciprocal Licensure**

A license to practice landscape architecture in any state or country whose licensure requirements are at least substantially equivalent to Massachusetts and which other jurisdiction extends the same privilege to landscape architects licensed in Massachusetts.

[Fee: Initial license and annual renewal, \$66.]

### **Practice Entities**

Firm, partnerships and corporations may use the title landscape architect or landscape architects, or similar title provided that the practice of landscape architecture by those entities is under the professional and supervisory control of a licensee.

### **Seal Requirements**

All plans and specifications and reports prepared by, or under the supervision, of a licensee must be stamped with a seal.

### **Enforcement**

Board powers: Hold hearings, suspend, revoke and reinstate licenses.

Prohibitions/penalties: Violating any provision of the law or any rule or regulation of the board; obtaining a license by fraud or misrepresentation; being paid or receiving any money or thing of value, except required fees, to secure the issuance of a license; being guilty of a felony; being guilty of fraud, deceit, or of gross negligence, incompetence or misconduct, in the use of the title of landscape architect; permitting or suffering a licensee's official seal to be affixed to any plans, specifications, drawings or reports, if such portions thereof as involve the practice of landscape architecture were not prepared by him or her or under his or her personal supervision by his or her regularly employed subordinates.

Prohibitions/penalties for unlicensed use of the title: Holding oneself out as a landscape architect; using the title landscape architect or any sign, title, card or other device to indicate that an unlicensed person is a landscape architect; presenting as his or her own the license of another; giving false or forged evidence to the board of registration or any member in obtaining a license; falsely impersonating any other licensee of like or different name; using or attempting to use a license that has been revoked; and otherwise violating any other provisions of the law by any person is unlawful. Violations are punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

### **Mandatory Continuing Education**

Massachusetts does not require continuing education for landscape architects.

### **Last updated April 18, 2011**

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