

April 24, 2024

Senator Beth Mizell, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs
PO Box 94183
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Senate Bill 456

Dear Senator Mizell:

On behalf of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (LCASLA) we write to express deep concerns with SB 456, which would provide for a sunset review process by a newly created Louisiana Regulatory and Advisory Board Review Commission "Review Commission."

All 50 states and the District of Columbia license landscape architects, due to the health, safety, and welfare impact of the profession. Landscape architects plan, design, and manage the natural and built environment around us: nature-based infrastructure, living shorelines, green stormwater systems, parks, community master planning, walkable neighborhoods, multimodal transportation networks, and much more. Through these responsibilities, landscape architects keep the public safe from hazards, protect vital natural resources within our state, and foster active lifestyles. The public interest is best served when qualified professionals perform these services.

Louisiana landscape architects address public health, safety, and welfare through designing, documenting, and supervising the construction of millions of dollars in infrastructure and site improvements in our beautiful state every year. Our work can be seen throughout Louisiana – Audubon Park & Zoo, City Park, and the New Orleans Riverfront (Woldenberg Park) in New Orleans; Moncus Park in Lafayette; Town Square, Rhorer Plaza, Repentance Park, and the Downtown Greenway in Baton Rouge, and hundreds of other public and private projects in Louisiana communities big and small. It's the landscape architect's responsibility to ensure these designs create healthy, safe, and resilient natural and built environments.

Overall, the LCASLA shares your sentiment of workforce goals that ensure effective and efficient professional licensing. However, as discussed below, we have several concerns with the legislation:

- It is unclear to us if SB 456 proposes the Review Commission to conduct sunset reviews of all boards and commissions prior to the automatic termination of operations on July 1, 2028, and "all legislative authority" on July 1, 2029, as described in §45.1 (A). For a variety of reasons, automatically terminating and ceasing all board and commission operations and authority by 2029 is extremely concerning to our profession. Should the legislature want to require sunset reviews, rather than automatically terminating boards and commissions, we would recommend SB 456 set a sunset review process start date. This could be accomplished by deleting §45.1 (A) and adding a sunset review process start date in §45.1 (B).



Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

729 Royal St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

931.581.3114
www.lcasla.org

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- Furthermore, we are concerned an ongoing four-year sunset review process is likely to be inefficient and burdensome. If sunset reviews are to be implemented, we believe the process would be more effective if it had a sunset review timeline greater than four years. We believe such a timeline would be less burdensome for all administrative staff of boards and stakeholders, while still achieving the state's objective of active supervision.
- Additionally, we are concerned with and unclear how the review commission will evaluate boards and commissions that regulate a diverse set of individual professions and occupations. The landscape architecture profession is in the unique position of being a member of a commission that regulates nine total professions and occupations. Each of our professions and occupations have distinctly different impacts on public health, safety, and welfare, and any sunset review process should ensure these differences are acknowledged.

Landscape architects take pride in our contributions to public health and safety and to Louisiana's unique culture and sense of place. Through the design of Louisiana's parks and recreational trails, Complete Streets, college campuses, and downtown plazas, landscape architects have created safe spaces for people to lead free and prosperous lives. Each member of our profession is committed to making our state a great place to live, work, and play.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to provide our initial thoughts and concerns on SB 456. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact us at Michael Petty, ASLA, PLA, mpetty@ddgpc.com, 931.581.3114 and Justin Lemoine, ASLA, PLA, jklemoine@gmail.com, 225.931.4863.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Petty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Michael Petty, ASLA, PLA
President, Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Lemoine". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

Justin Lemoine, ASLA, PLA
Trustee, Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Cc: Senator Thomas Pressly
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs