

SB 256_Carla Ellern_favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Carla Ellern

Position: FAV

Carla Ellern
9106 Brierly Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

February 8, 2026

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 256 Written Testimony – Favorable

Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, and Members of the Committee

My name is Carla Ellern and I am a Licensed Landscape Architect in Maryland, and a member and past President of the Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. I have been practicing Landscape Architecture in Maryland for almost 30 years.

I am in favor of Senate Bill 256, State Board of Professional Landscape Architects – Revisions. The proposed modernization of the statute's language continues to ensure the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public. The statute provides significant changes to the practice of landscape architecture and the licensing process for landscape architects. Specifically:

1. Updating and modernizing the Landscape Architects Act so the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects will be able to continue regulating the profession effectively.
2. Ensuring the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Public.
3. Eliminating outdated procedures and terms.
4. Updating the name of "The State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects" to "State Board of Landscape Architects."
5. Revising the term "Licensed Landscape Architects" to "Professional Landscape Architects."
6. Reducing the experience required to be Board Member to allow younger voices to be heard.
7. Adjusting duties of the board to provide better governance of the board and Professional Landscape Architects.
8. Removing outdated language used in license renewal
9. Providing a provision for and defining the qualifications of Emeritus status.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my written testimony. I respectfully request a **favorable** report from the committee on HB 485.

Sincerely,

Carla Ellern, Landscape Architect

Lila Fendrick Landscape Architects

Carla.ellern@gmail.com

Cell 301 943 3666

SB 256_Kara Lanahan_favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Carla Ellern

Position: FAV

Kara Lanahan, Landscape Architect
Potomac Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects
Montgomery Parks, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
2524 Reedie Drive
Wheaton, MD 20902

February 10, 2026

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Reference: Senate Bill 256 Written Testimony – Favorable

Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, and Members of the Committee

My name is Kara Lanahan and I am a Licensed Landscape Architect in Maryland. I am the President of the Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a landscape architect with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

I am in favor of Senate Bill 256, State Board of Professional Landscape Architects – Revisions. The proposed modernization of the statute's language continues to ensure the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public. The statute provides significant changes to the practice of landscape architecture and the licensing process for landscape architects.

Specifically:

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2. Ensuring the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Public.
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6. Reducing the experience required to be Board Member to allow younger voices to be heard.
7. Adjusting duties of the board to provide better governance of the board and Professional Landscape Architects.
8. Removing outdated language used in license renewal
9. Providing a provision for and defining the qualifications of Emeritus status.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my written testimony. I respectfully request a **favorable** report from the committee on HB 485.

Sincerely,

Kara Lanahan, President, Potomac Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects,
Landscape Architect, PLA

Montgomery Parks, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission

klanahan@gmail.com

Cell 203 482 0485

HB 485 Written Testimony 2-11-2026 - Grace E Fiel

Uploaded by: Grace Fielder

Position: FAV

February 11, 2026

Economic Matters Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Reference: HB 485, State Board of Professional Landscape Architects – Revisions

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

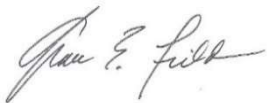
My name is Grace E. Fielder. I am representing myself as an individual, and as president of Grace E. Fielder & Associates, Chartered, a Landscape Architecture, and Environmental firm I founded in 1991. I serve on the Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects, however I am **not** speaking for them or representing them.

I became a licensed Landscape Architect in 1978, under the original statute effective on July 1, 1971. Of minor note my licensure number is 387, and I was the 15 woman to be registered in the State of Maryland. I am as passionate today about the profession as I was when I first started practicing in 1970. The legislation that is before you today will modernize the original statute, to better align Maryland's Landscape Architects with our fellow disciplines of civil engineering, land surveying, and architecture. First, and foremost, modernization continues to provide for and protect the public's Health, Safety, and Welfare. The updated statute provides for the following:

- Update "The State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects" to "State Board of Landscape Architects."
- "Licensed Landscape Architects" will be revised to "Professional Landscape Architects."
- Experience required to be Board Member has been reduced, allowing for a younger voice to be heard.
- Duties of the Board are adjusted providing for better governance of the Board and Professional Landscape Architects.
- Revising the language for renewal of license to remove outdated language.
- Provision of an Emeritus status and defining of qualifications

Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public remain the bed stone of the proposed changes to the statute. Modernization does not expand the regulatory authority but rather improves the framework to balance public protection with sustainable land use and environmental stewardship across the State of Maryland. **HB 485** ensures that only qualified individuals practice in areas that affect land use, community spaces, and environmental outcomes. For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable report on HB 485**.

Respectfully
Grace



Grace E. Fielder PLA, FASLA, AICP, FAICP
GRACE E. FIELDER & ASSOCIATES, CHARTERED
gfielder@gefilder.com Cell - 301- 466-8799

SB 256 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Whealton

Position: FAV



February 6, 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

RE: SB 256 - State Board of Professional Landscape Architects - Revisions

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 12, 2:00 PM

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture is a statewide organization established in 1972 dedicated to advancing the profession of Landscape Architecture. Composed of and representing nearly 400 members, we respectfully submit this letter in support of **SB 256**, which amends Title 9 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article related to Landscape Architects.

At its core, this legislation modernizes statutory language written decades ago to better align Landscape Architecture with related licensed design professions, without making material changes to licensure requirements. Maryland's current requirements are already largely consistent with the Uniform Licensure Standard, a nationally recognized policy framework developed by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) and supported by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

This legislation updates the professional title from "Licensed Landscape Architect" to "Professional Landscape Architect," which will strengthen the clarity, credibility, and public understanding of a profession that requires rigorous education, experience, and examination, and whose primary obligations are to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to promote and practice environmental stewardship. In addition, the legislation establishes an Emeritus Status to formally honor the experience of professionals in the later stages of their careers who wish to step back from active practice while maintaining a clear distinction from current licensure or professional responsibility. This change is consistent with other licensed professionals in the State of Maryland, including architects, physicians, and certified public accountants, the latter of which received emeritus status during the 2025 legislative session.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration and respectfully request your affirmative vote on **SB 256 - State Board of Professional Landscape Architects - Revisions**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Whealton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Whealton".

Patrick Whealton, PLA, ASLA

President

Maryland Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

SB256 Favorable Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gallion

Position: FAV

JASON C. GALLION
Legislative District 35
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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District Office
64 S. Main Street
Port Deposit, Maryland 21904

February 10th, 2026

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: Favorable - SB 256 – State Board of Landscape Architects – Revisions

SB 256 makes targeted but meaningful reforms to how Maryland licenses and regulates landscape architects. Specifically, the bill:

- Updates the official name of the licensing board to the State Board of Professional Landscape Architects to better reflect the modern scope of the profession;
- Revises the definition of “licensed landscape architects” to “professional landscape architects” for clarity and consistency;
- Adjusts qualifications for board membership to ensure a broader and more effective representation of the landscape architecture profession;
- Clarifies and updates certain duties of the Board to support better governance;
- Aligns educational and experience requirements for licensure with current professional standards in the field.

These changes improve the regulatory framework in a way that balances public protection with professional development. Landscape architects play a vital role in environmental stewardship, sustainable land use, stormwater management, and public space design across Maryland. SB 256 does not expand regulatory authority unnecessarily nor does it introduce burdensome requirements on practitioners. Rather, it modernizes existing statutes and ensures that Maryland’s licensing framework supports quality, safety, and public confidence in the profession.

Licensure and its oversight matter: they help protect the public by ensuring that only qualified individuals practice in areas that affect land use, community spaces, and environmental outcomes. This bill advances those goals while supporting Maryland’s landscape architecture community.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 256.

JASON C. GALLION
Legislative District 35
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Gallion".

Jason Gallion

Senator – District 35

2026 PLA Letter of Support SB0256 (HB0485).docx.pd

Uploaded by: Zevi Thomas

Position: FAV

SB0256 (HB0485)

Date: February 5, 2026

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill Title: State Board of Professional Landscape Architects - Revisions

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter today on behalf of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects (the Board). Senate Bill 256 modernizes much of the language of the current Title Act; eliminates outdated procedures and terms, further clarifying existing requirements for licensure in Maryland. Professional landscape architects work to ensure design spaces are accessible and protect the public health, safety, welfare and property.

The Landscape Architects Act has not been reviewed in over 20 years, during which time both the practice of landscape architecture and the licensing process for landscape architects have changed significantly. By updating and modernizing the Landscape Architects Act, the State Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects will be able to continue regulating the profession effectively, ensuring public benefits now and for the foreseeable future. The Board respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee. Members of the Board are prepared to answer any questions the committee may have about SB 256.

Respectfully,

Zevi Thomas

Executive Director

Maryland Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects