



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