



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
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February 4, 2008

The Honorable P. Michael Sturla
Majority Chairman
House Professional Licensure Committee
PA House of Representatives
333 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2096

Dear Chairman Sturla:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 612, which is the subject of a public hearing by the House Professional Licensure Committee on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Senate Bill 612 eliminates two provisions of the Landscape Architects' Registration Law that allow a person to obtain a license to practice landscape architecture without having passed the national Council of Landscape Architectural Boards examination. The bill also increases the continuing education requirement for biennial renewal of a license for a landscape architect from 10 to 24 hours.

First, the Department of State (Department) supports this legislation as it assures that only those who have demonstrated competence through, among other things, passing a licensure examination be licensed to practice as a landscape architect. Second, the Department supports the increase in the continuing education hours for landscape architects from 10 to 24 because it will require that licensees to more appropriately maintain and enhance their professional skills. The Department considers continuing education an important component in keeping practitioners of all professions and occupations competent and up-to-date with the rapidly changing practices of their professions and occupations.

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Again, thank you for allowing the Department of State to comment on this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns at 717-783-7192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Basil L. Merenda". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Basil L. Merenda
Commissioner

BLM