

Labor

AB 142 – Landscape Architecture Practice Act

Rep. Shilling

Summary of Bill (*as amended*):

Assembly Bill 142 creates a landscape architecture practice act in Wisconsin. Currently individuals in Wisconsin cannot use the title of “landscape architect” unless they are a certified landscape architect, while any individual can perform the duties of a landscape architect but cannot use the title. Under this bill no person may practice landscape architecture unless he or she is registered as a landscape architect. The registration requirements remain the same under the bill.

The bill clarifies that landscape architecture does not include professional services provided by a person who is an architect, engineer, or land surveyor, if the person holds the credential required to engage in that practice. The bill exempts an individual doing work on property owned by the individual and a person making plans or drawings for the selection, placement, or use of plants or site features.

Assembly Amendment 1 is a technical correction to a drafting oversight, changing one instance of language from “architect” to “landscape architect.” [AA1 to AB 142 adopted 8-0-1; Soletski absent]

Assembly Amendment 2 removes irrigation design from the bill as being included in the definition of a landscape architect. This allows members of the irrigation industry to continue to practice designing irrigation systems without first receiving a landscape architect license from the state. [AA2 to AB 142 adopted 8-0-1; Soletski absent]

Fiscal Effect:

No fiscal estimate was required for this bill.

Supporters Message:

- Ensures that only licensed landscape architects perform highly technical, complicated landscape projects.
- Without this legislation, Wisconsin’s landscape architects are at a competitive disadvantage to their colleagues in 43 other states that have a practice act, because many contracts require that landscape architects be licensed.

Opponents Message:

- Gives restricted authority to a group of professionals who may not be trained or practice certain specific aspects in the landscape industry, such as irrigation design (*see AA2*).

Key Supporters:

Rep. Jennifer Shilling (author); WI Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects; WI Green Industry Federation.

Key Opponents:

Michael Todd, Owner of Milwaukee Lawn Sprinkler Corp.; Irrigation Association. Wisconsin Society of Architects registers in opposition on the GAB web site.

Committee Vote:

On April 16, 2009, the Assembly Committee on Labor recommended passage of AB 142, as amended, on a vote of 7-1-1. [Honadel and Knodl voted Aye; Nass voted No; Soletski absent]

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Jason Vick; Office of Rep. Mark Honadel (6-0610).