

**CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: **November 30, 2015**

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulation: **Education and Training Credits**

Section Affected: California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 26, Section 2620

As a result of legislative reorganization, the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC), established on January 1, 1998, replaced the former Board of Landscape Architects and was placed under the purview of the California Architects Board (Board). Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 5630 authorizes the Board to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations that are reasonably necessary in order to carry out the provisions under the Landscape Architects Practice Act.

1. PURPOSE

BPC section 5650 requires candidates seeking licensure in landscape architecture to have six years of training and educational experience in landscape architecture to qualify for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE).

Currently, CCR section 2620(b) requires candidates to have at least one year of education in landscape architecture and identifies the qualifying degree programs. CCR section 2620(c) requires candidates to have a minimum of two years training/practice in landscape architecture and identifies the settings in which training/practice can be earned. CCR section 2620(a) lists the amount of credit given for various degree programs and specific training/practice settings.

This proposal would retain the Board's existing education and training credits and add subsection 2620(a)(13) to allow candidates to gain up to one year of training/practice credit for teaching in a landscape architecture degree program as specified in subdivisions (a)(1),(2), and (4) of this section, under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.

FACTUAL BASIS/RATIONALE

The Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee's (JLSRC) 2010, and 2014* Recommendations and the LATC's subsequent Strategic Plans direct LATC to review the existing six-year training and education requirements for examination, identify eligibility issues and propose solutions that not only protect the public health, safety and welfare of the consumer, but also ensure that there are no barriers to the landscape architect profession for qualified individuals.

In 2013, LATC began consideration of whether credit should be given for teaching in an accredited or approved landscape architectural degree program, under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect. Several states (New York, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington) with similar landscape architect licensing

* The 2014 Sunset Review hearings and recommendations were conducted via a joint effort of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development and the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.

populations grant such credit. Further, the Board and the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG), related professions, allow up to one year of training/experience credit for teaching in accredited architectural or professional engineering degree programs.

LATC recognizes that teaching, which typically includes research, addresses the application of new ideas, theories and technologies to actual practice. The applied research creates a collaborative and mentoring situation between academia and the profession and addresses a measure of critical thinking and technical skills related to the practice of landscape architecture. While “teaching” is not the same as “working in the field,” its importance in imparting the skills and knowledge tested for in the LARE and required for safe practice, is immeasurable. As such, LATC agreed that up to one-year of training/practice credit should be granted for teaching in a landscape architecture degree program, under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect.

By adding a setting in which training/practice credit can be earned, this proposed regulation expands eligibility opportunities for licensure candidates which compliments the Department of Consumer Affairs’ “Licensing for Job Creation Initiative.”

At its meeting on May 13, 2015, the LATC voted to approve an amendment to CCR section 2620(a)(13) to provide up to one year of training/practice credit for teaching under the supervision of a licensed landscape architect in an approved or non-approved landscape architecture degree program or an associate landscape architecture degree program from a community college.

UNDERLYING DATA

1. JLSRC 2010 and 2014 Recommendations
2. LATC Strategic Plans – 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16
3. CCR, Title 16, Division 2, Section 117 (a)(14)(B)
4. Professional Engineers Act – BPC Section 6753
5. Summary Report – LATC Meeting, November 7, 2013
6. Summary Report – LATC Meeting, February 10, 2015
7. Summary Report – LATC Meeting, May 13, 2015

BUSINESS IMPACT

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with business in other states, because it affects only candidates for examination and licensure.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This regulatory proposal will have the following effects:

- It will not create or eliminate jobs within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- It will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California because it only affects candidates for examination and licensure.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the health and welfare of California residents because the proposed changes will not be of sufficient magnitude to have such an effect.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect worker safety because it is not related to worker safety in any manner.
- This regulatory proposal does not affect the state's environment because it is not related to the environment in any manner.

SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.