

Model Law

Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards

Last Approved: April 2022

Introduction

What Landscape Architects Do

Since the 1800s, landscape architecture has encompassed analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environment through science and design. Landscape architects create well-planned, livable communities, leading the way by creating neighborhood master plans, designing green streets, managing storm-water runoff, and planning high-utility transportation corridors.

Landscape architecture includes iconic and neighborhood places, local parks, residential communities, commercial developments, and downtown streetscapes. Larger well-known examples include Central Park and the Highline in New York City, the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington, D.C., the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and Chicago's Millennium Park.

Why Landscape Architects Must Be Licensed

The practice of landscape architecture includes keeping the public safe from hazards, protecting natural resources, and sustainably managing the natural and built environment surrounding our homes and communities. It requires a breadth of knowledge and training in many substantive areas of science, engineering, and aesthetics. The adverse risks and consequences of negligent, unqualified, unethical, or incompetent persons engaging in landscape architectural design services without the requisite education and training are significant—sometimes irreparable—economically, environmentally, and in terms of public safety, health, and welfare.

At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and site improvements every year, and the safety of persons and property these improvements affect. Licensure of landscape architects permits consumers to manage these risks and reduces exposure for liability from hazardous and defective design.

To properly serve and protect the public these risks and consequences and the potential for harm must be minimized and prevented. The public interest is best served when qualified, licensed professionals carry out these responsibilities safely in accordance with rigorous and essential professional standards, and when other non-qualified individuals are prevented from providing such services to the public. Moreover, licensing is necessary and appropriate given landscape architecture's technical nature—and consumer/public inability to accurately and reliably assess the competence of such providers.

Without regulatory standards, consumers have no mechanism to ensure they can rely on a professional to produce design and technical documentation meeting minimum standards of competence.

How the CLARB Model Law Promotes Public Protection

The CLARB Model Law is a resource for legislatures and licensing boards addressing issues related to the public-protection mission of regulation.

This Model Law serves as a model for the regulation of landscape architects because it aims to promote uniformity in licensing laws (affording predictability, commercial efficiency, and enhanced trust in the profession), establish minimal standards of competence for those practicing landscape architecture, and facilitate professional mobility and portability through a licensure transfer process.

How CLARB Member Boards Benefit from the Model Law

Member Boards should review and use the Model Law in the context of regulatory and language issues unique to each jurisdiction. This Model Law offers a resource for jurisdictions to update their applicable laws by referring to or adopting the document or any sections of it, but ultimately, each jurisdiction must determine the appropriate level of regulation of the practice of landscape architecture within its borders.

The Model Law includes the following sections:

- Article I – Title, Purpose and Definitions
- Article II – Board of (Profession)
- Article III – Licensing
- Article IV – Discipline
- Article V – Mandatory Reporting
- Article VI – Other

The Model Law is intended to be fluid, subject to regular review and periodic changes, when necessary. Revisions are generally stimulated by societal shifts, evolution of practice and technological advancements. Proposed revisions will be presented to CLARB members for consideration.

The language included in this Model Law version is framed with a single, stand-alone board structure in mind—i.e., for circumstances in which the promulgating Board's role is limited to serving/regulating one design discipline, not multiple related design disciplines. When this Model Law is used by Boards serving or regulating more than one professional discipline, its language will require adaptation or modification to accommodate that composite board's structure and approach, and the specific design professions governed.

Article I - Title, Purpose, and Definitions

Section 101. Title of Act.

This Act is called the “[Jurisdiction] Landscape Architecture Practice Act.”

Section 102. Legislative Declaration.

- A. The practice of Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] is declared a professional practice affecting public health, safety, and welfare and subject to regulation and control in the public interest. The public interest requires that Landscape Architecture merit and receive public confidence and that only qualified persons practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction]. This Act will be liberally construed to carry out these objectives and purposes.
- B. This legislation regulates the Landscape Architecture profession. Any restriction on competition is outweighed by protecting the public interest. The regulatory structure calls for Licensees and Public Members to serve on the Board, recognizing the need for practitioners’ professional expertise in serving the public interest.

This Act provides active Jurisdiction oversight and Supervision through its enactment, promulgation of enabling regulations, appointment and removal of Board members by the (Governor), legal representation of the Board by the [Jurisdiction] Attorney General, legislative appropriation of monies to support the Board, periodic legislative sunset review, application to the Board of ethics laws, mandatory Board-member training, and judicial review.

Section 103. Statement of Purpose.

This Act’s purpose is to promote, preserve, and protect public health, safety, and welfare by licensing and regulating persons, whether in or outside [Jurisdiction], who practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction]. This Act creates the Board of Landscape Architecture whose members, functions, and procedures will be established in accordance with the Act.

Section 104. Practice of Landscape Architecture.

The practice of Landscape Architecture means the application of mathematical, physical and social-sciences principles in Landscape Architectural consultation, evaluation, planning, and design; it includes preparing, filing, and administering plans, drawings, specifications, permits, and other contract documents involving projects that direct, inform or advise on the functional use and preservation of natural and built environments.

Sections 102 and 103

One of the most important sections of a practice act is the legislative declaration and statement of purpose. These essential sections express the foundation and need for regulation of the profession with affirmative statements of the Act’s legislative intent. The “liberal construction” directive provides guidance to the judiciary when addressing language ambiguities in the statutes and regulations.

The guiding principles of legislation to regulate a profession include delegation of authority from the legislative to the executive branch through board appointments and authorization to regulate.

To provide an efficient and effective regulatory process, boards are populated with persons with knowledge of and expertise in the profession. For balance, boards also include members of the public with no direct connection to the profession regulated.

Section 104

The definition of the scope of practice provides the basis for the regulatory system and is used to identify work for which a license is necessary.

Those operating within the scope of practice must be licensed under the eligibility criteria. Eligibility criteria are provided in the regulations.

The scope of practice is purposefully defined using broad terms to allow interpretative opportunities and to recognize the interplay among the related design professions. When necessary, and using Board-member expertise, specificity can be clarified in regulations.

Section 105. Activities Not Subject to the Act.

This Act does not apply to:

- A. Persons licensed to practice Landscape Architecture in another Jurisdiction while serving in the U.S. military; provided such persons provide services during or as part of their military service.
- B. Persons licensed to practice Landscape Architecture in another Jurisdiction while performing official duties as a federal government employee.
- C. Persons training for the practice of Landscape Architecture under a Licensee's direct Supervision.

Section 106. Definitions.

Words and phrases used in this Act have the meanings stated below, unless the context otherwise requires:

- A. **Adjudicatory Proceeding or Hearing** — formal processes of an administrative determination in which the Board adjudicates allegations of violations of law and, if appropriate, renders sanctions, all in accord with applicable procedural and substantive standards to protect rights.
- B. **Applicant** — a Person who submits an application to the Board for licensure to practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] under this Act.
- C. **Approved Educational Program** — an educational program for Landscape Architects as established by this Act or any other landscape architectural curriculum which has been evaluated and found to be of an equivalent standard, may be reviewed and accepted by the Board.
- D. **Approved Program of Continuing Education** — an educational program offered by an Approved Provider of Continuing Education.
- E. **Approved Provider of Continuing Education** — any professional association or society, university, college, corporation, or other entity approved by the Board to provide educational programs designed to ensure continued Competence in the practice of Landscape Architecture.
- F. **Board** — the legislatively created Board granted the authority to enforce the [Jurisdiction] Landscape Architects Practice Act.

Section 105

CLARB understands there exists significant overlap in scopes of practice of the design professions. This section statutorily recognizes that certain activities are not subject to the Act.

The Model Law purposefully avoids use of the term "exemptions," the concept of activities being included within the scope of practice, but not subject to licensure, undermines the need for regulation.

Section 106(C), (D), (E), and (O)

Specific references to programs and other standards of practice and ethics are not referenced in the Model Law. Such specifics are instead included in regulations created using Board members' expertise.

The legal reasons specific references are included in regulations instead of in the Model Law are related to delegation of authority and prohibitions of recognizing private-sector programs as a prerequisite to licensure in the statute.

Section 106

Definitions identify terms used consistently throughout the Model Law. Note that capitalized words or phrases can be found in the Model Law's definition section.

Throughout the document defined terms are capitalized.

- G. **Business Entity** — any firm, partnership, sole proprietorship, association, limited liability company, or corporation organized by and registered in [Jurisdiction] to provide or offer Landscape Architectural services.
- H. **Certificate of Authorization** — a certificate issued by the Board to a Business Entity permitting it to offer or provide Landscape Architectural services.
- I. **CLARB** — the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.
- J. **CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard** — the current version of the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture adopted by the CLARB Member Boards, or a successor policy document published by CLARB and adopted by its Member Boards that sets forth standardized licensure requirements for landscape architecture.
- K. **Client** — a Person, group, or corporation that enters into an agreement with a licensed Landscape Architect or Business Entity to obtain Landscape Architectural services.
- L. **Competence** — applying knowledge and using affective, cognitive, and psychomotor skills required by Landscape Architects to deliver safe Landscape Architectural care in accord with accepted practice standards.
- M. **Consultation** — providing advice to or receiving advice from another professional, or both, related to the practice of Landscape Architecture, to assist a Licensee.
- N. **Continuing Education** — training designed to ensure continued Competence in the practice of Landscape Architecture.
- O. **Continuing Education Contact Hour** — a 50-minute clock-hour of instruction, not including breaks or meals.
- P. **Conviction** — conviction of a crime by a court with jurisdiction, including a finding or verdict of guilt—regardless of whether adjudication of guilt is withheld, not entered on admission of guilt, or involves deferred conviction, deferred prosecution, deferred sentence, a no consent plea, a plea of *nolo contendere*, or a guilty plea.
- Q. **Examination** — an examination for Landscape Architects developed and administered by CLARB or as may be approved by the Board.
- R. **Felony** — a criminal act defined by [Jurisdiction] laws, the laws of any other Jurisdiction, province, or federal law.

- S. **Good Standing** — a License not restricted in any manner and that grants Licensee full practice privileges.
- T. **Inactive License** — an inactive category of licensure affirmatively elected by a Licensee in Good Standing who is not engaged in the active practice of Landscape Architecture, to maintain such License in a nonpractice status.
- U. **Jurisdiction** — any state, commonwealth, the District of Columbia, or other insular territories of the United States, and Canadian provinces and territories.
- V. **Landscape Architect** — a Person licensed by the Board under this Act.
- W. **Landscape Architecture** — the practice of the profession as defined under this act.
- X. **License** — an authorization granted by the Board to practice Landscape Architecture.
- Y. **Licensee** — a Person licensed by the Board under this Act.
- Z. **Person** — any individual, firm, Business Entity, partnership, association, joint venture, cooperative, corporation, or other combination acting in concert, or as a Principal, trustee, fiduciary, receiver, or a representative, or as successor in interest, assignee, agent, factor, servant, employee, director, or officer of another Person.
- AA. **Principal** — an individual who is a Landscape Architect and is in Responsible Charge of a Business Entity's Landscape Architectural practice.
- BB. **Public Member** — a Person that is not and has never been a Licensee, or the spouse of a current or former Licensee, or a Person with material financial interest in providing Landscape Architectural services or engaged in activity directly related to Landscape Architecture.
- CC. **Responsible Charge** — the direct control and personal Supervision of the practice of Landscape Architecture.
- DD. **Seal** — a symbol, image, or information in the form of a rubber stamp, embossed seal, computer-generated data, or other form acceptable to the Board applied or attached to a document to verify document authenticity and origin.

Section 106(BB)

The definition of Public Member is intended to preclude those involved with or related to persons in the profession of Landscape Architecture from serving in this role.

When a composite board approach is considered, the definition of public member will be reassessed and expanded to preclude other design professionals from serving as public members.

EE. **Supervision** and Supervision-related terms are defined as follows:

- (i) Supervising (Professional) — a Licensee who assumes responsibility for professional Client care given by a Person working under Licensee's direction.
- (ii) Direct control and personal Supervision — Supervision by a Landscape Architect of another's work in which supervisor is directly involved in all practice-related judgments affecting public health, safety and welfare.

Article II - Board of Landscape Architecture

Section 201. Delegation of Authority.

Enforcing this Act is the Board's responsibility. Under this Jurisdiction's active oversight and Supervision, the Board has all duties, powers, and authority granted by, or necessary to enforce, this Act, and other duties, powers, and authority it is granted bylaw.

Section 201

This section recognizes and legislatively affirms that certain authority is delegated from the legislative branch to the board. A clear articulation authorizing the board to enforce the practice act in the interest of public protection provides added emphasis of legislative intent. This designation is important in times of added judicial and political scrutiny and in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding antitrust liability and state action defense.

Section 202. Board Composition.

Landscape Architect Board Option

- A. The Board will consist of [Number] members; at least [Number] will be public representative(s), and the remainder will be Licensees qualified under Section 203 of this Act. This Board member composition ensures the necessary expertise to efficiently and effectively regulate the profession, using professionals acting on the public's behalf and bound by applicable ethics and public-service laws.

Composite Board Option

- B. The Board will consist of [Number] members appointed under Section 204 and comprised of the following:
- (i) Two (2) Public Members as defined by this act.
 - (ii) Two (2) Landscape Architects as defined in Section 203.
 - (iii) Two (2) [Profession] as defined in *[citation to relevant practice act referencing resident, licensed in Good Standing, other licenses in Good Standing, licensed for a specified period of time]*.
 - (iv) Two (2) [Profession] as defined in *[citation to relevant practice act referencing resident, licensed in Good Standing, other licenses in Good Standing, licensed for a specified period of time]*.
 - (v) Two (2) [Profession] as defined in *[citation to relevant practice act referencing resident, licensed in Good Standing, other licenses in Good Standing, licensed for a specified period of time]*.
 - (vi) Two (2) [Profession] as defined in *[citation to relevant practice act referencing resident, licensed in Good Standing, other licenses in Good Standing, licensed for a specified period of time]*.
 - (vii) *[Intended to include two (2) members from each profession under the Board's jurisdiction.]*
- C. In addition to these qualifications, each Board member shall during the appointed period comply with Section 203(b), (c), (d), and (e).
- D. This Board member composition ensures the necessary expertise to efficiently and effectively regulate the professions using professionals acting on the public's behalf and bound by applicable ethics and public-service laws.

Section 202

With respect to states' rights and differing current regulatory structures, CLARB provides two board models in this Model Law. The language included in this version of the Model Law works with a single, stand-alone board structure.

Language in various parts of the Model Law require modification if a different board structure is used.

The remaining portions of the Model Law do not include the multiple scopes and licensure eligibility criteria factors. Regardless of the type of board structure, the board composition includes persons with expertise of the represented design professions and public members.

Section 202(A) identifies a stand-alone board option with Landscape Architects and public members involved in regulation of the profession.

Section 202(B) identifies a composite board option and includes equal representation of the design professions regulated by the board. Public members are also included on the composite board.

Related design professions on a composite board may include, but are not limited to, architects, engineers, landscape architects, land surveyors, geologists, and interior designers.

Section 203. Qualifications for Board Membership.

- A. Each Landscape Architect Board member must during their Board tenure:
 - i) Be a resident of [Jurisdiction] for at least one (1) year.
 - ii) Be a Licensee in Good Standing.
 - iii) Maintain in Good Standing any other professional License they hold.
 - iv) Have been licensed as a Landscape Architect for at least three (3) years.
- B. Each Public Member of the Board must be a resident of [Jurisdiction] and at least 21 years of age.
- C. Each Board member shall maintain eligibility to serve on the Board by avoiding relationships that may interfere with the Board's public-protection mission. Board members shall be especially cognizant of conflict-of-interest issues including, for example, participation in [Jurisdiction] or national professional associations.
- D. Board members are barred from being an officer of or holding any leadership position (being a voting member of the governing Board) in a Jurisdiction or national professional association during the Board member's appointed term.
- E. Each Board member shall annually attest to completing coursework or training hours and content approved by Board policy. Coursework or training must address relevant regulatory issues such as the Board's role, Board members' roles, conflicts of interest, administrative procedures, enforcement, and immunity.

Section 204. Board Member Appointment and Oversight by Governor.

The Governor shall appoint members of the Board in accordance with Article II of this Act and the [Jurisdiction] constitution. In addition, the Governor can remove Board members with or without cause.

Section 203

Expertise of board members is essential to effective and efficient decision-making.

This section identifies eligibility criteria to serve on the board.

All board members serve the public interest when undertaking and acting within the scope of board duties and responsibilities.

Section 204

Government oversight is intended in the regulatory structure. Legislative enactment creating and delegating authority, Governor appointments, and removal authority assists in providing necessary governmental oversight.

Section 205. Terms.

- A. Except as provided in subsection B below, Board members are appointed for four-year terms. Board members appointed to fill vacancies occurring before a former member's full term expires shall serve the remaining portion of that unexpired term.
- B. Board-member terms must be staggered so no more than [Number/Percentage] member terms expire in any year. Each member shall serve until a qualified successor is appointed, unless such member resigns or is removed from the Board under Article II Sections 204 or 207 of this Act.
- C. Board members can serve for up to three (3) consecutive full terms. Completing the remainder of an unexpired term is not a "full term".

Section 206. Board Member Vacancies.

- A. Any vacancy in Board membership for any reason, including expiration of term, removal, resignation, death, disability, or disqualification, must be filled by the Governor or appointing authority as prescribed in Article II Section 204 of this Act as soon as practicable.
- B. If a vacancy is not filled within six (6) months, the Board may appoint an individual qualified under Section 203 to temporarily fill the vacancy until the Governor (or appointing authority) approves the temporary Board member or appoints a new member.

Section 207. Removal of Board Member.

The Board may remove a Board member on an affirmative vote of three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of members otherwise eligible to vote, and based on one or more of the following grounds:

- A. Board member's refusal or inability to perform required duties efficiently, responsibly, and professionally.
- B. Misuse of a Board-member position to obtain, or attempt to obtain, any financial or material gain, or any advantage personally or for another, through the office.
- C. A final adjudication (by a court or other body with jurisdiction) that the Board member violated laws governing the practice of Landscape Architecture.
- D. Conviction of a crime other than a minor traffic offense.

Section 205

This section identifies a four-year term of appointment and limits service to three consecutive full terms. CLARB understands and appreciates the institutional knowledge and continuity of volunteers and attempts to balance longevity with the need for an infusion of new representation.

Section 206

This section addresses how a vacancy is filled by Governor appointment. CLARB identified and understands the value of a fully constituted board, but recognizes that vacancies may exist for months and years. To provide an incentive for the appointing authority to fill vacancies and keep boards fully populated, this section authorizes the board to fill a position that remains vacant for over six (6) months.

Section 207

This section authorizes the Board to remove Board members under specified conditions following identified procedures.

Section 208. Organization of the Board.

- A. The Board shall elect from its members a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and such other officers appropriate and necessary to conduct its business. The Chairperson shall preside at all Board meetings and perform customary duties of the position and other duties assigned by the Board.

The Chairperson may establish Board committees to further Board business, and may designate Board members as committee members.

- B. Officers elected by the Board serve terms of one (1) year starting the day of their election and ending when their successors are elected. Officers may serve no more than [Number] consecutive one-year terms in each elected office.

Section 209. Executive Director and Employees of Board.

- A. The Board shall employ an Executive Director who is responsible for performing administrative functions and such other duties the Board directs, under its oversight.
- B. The Board may employ persons (in addition to the Executive Director) in positions or capacities necessary to properly conduct Board business and fulfill Board responsibilities under this Act.

Section 210. Compensation of Board Members.

Each Board member is paid a *per diem* amount for each day the member performs official Board duties, and is reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses of discharging such official duties.

Section 211. Meetings of Board.

- A. Frequency. The Board shall meet at least once every three months to transact its business, and at such additional times as the Board's Chairperson or two-thirds (2/3) of the Board's voting members determine.
- B. Location. The Board shall determine the location and format for each meeting and provide notice to the public as required by [citation to open meetings laws].
- C. Remote Participation. The Board, consistent with [Jurisdiction] law and related regulations, may provide for remote participation in Board meetings by members not present at the meeting location.

Section 211

This section specifies that the Board shall meet a minimum number of times annually. CLARB recognizes that boards must meet often enough to transact business on a regular basis and to ensure that applicants' and respondents' issues are timely addressed. Technology provides a means for boards to meet regularly if it is difficult for a board to meet face-to-face on a frequent basis.

- D. Notice. Notice of all Board meetings will be given in the manner prescribed by [Jurisdiction]'s applicable open-meetings laws.
- E. Quorum. A majority of Board members is a quorum for convening and conducting a Board meeting and all Board actions will be by a majority of a quorum, unless more are required under this Act or Board regulation.
- F. Access by Public. All Board meetings must be conducted in accordance with [Jurisdiction]'s open-meeting law.
- G. Record of Meetings of the Board. A record of all Board meetings must be maintained in accordance with [Jurisdiction]'s open-records law.

Section 212. Regulations Governing Licensure and Practice.

The Board shall make, adopt, amend, and repeal regulations necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this Act. Such regulations must be promulgated in accordance with [Jurisdiction]'s Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 213. Powers and Duties Delegated to Board.

- A. Under active Jurisdiction oversight and Supervision, the Board shall regulate the practice of Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] and is responsible for conducting all of its activities in connection therewith. The powers and duties of this Section 213 are in addition to other powers and duties delegated to the Board under this Act. Once licensed by the Board, Licensees cannot divest the Board of jurisdiction by changing their licensure status or relinquishing licensure. Moreover, persons never licensed by the Board who engage in the unlawful practice of Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] are subject to the Board's jurisdiction.
- B. Licensure. The Board is authorized to issue licenses to, and renew licenses for:
 - (i) Persons qualified to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture under this Act.
 - (ii) Businesses qualified to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture under this Act.
- C. Standards. The Board is authorized to establish and enforce:
 - (i) Minimum standards of practice and conduct for Landscape Architects.
 - (ii) Standards for recognizing and approving programs for Landscape Architect education and training.

Section 212

One of the most important authorities delegated from the legislature to the Board is rulemaking by regulation. Statutes are intended to be general in nature while regulations add specifics.

Using its expertise and public representation perspectives, boards create regulations that add specificity to the statute. Expertise is needed to provide practice-specific details to the regulations.

As practice evolves, regulations are more flexible and easier to amend than are statutes.

Section 213

This section is the heart of the authority delegated by the legislature to the Board. CLARB believes that this section must be robust and specify the breadth of the authority of the Board to engage in all actions necessary to effectively and efficiently regulate the profession in the interest of public protection.

Additional commentary is provided throughout this section to highlight some of the important authority delegated to the Board.

- (iii) Standards, educational program criteria, or other mechanisms to ensure the continuing Competence of Landscape Architects.

D. Enforcement. The Board is authorized to enforce this Act and its regulations relating to:

- (i) The conduct or Competence of licensed Landscape Architects practicing in [Jurisdiction], and the suspension, revocation, other restriction of, or action against, any License issued by the Board.
- (ii) The assessment and collection of fines, costs, and attorneys' fees:
 - a. Against Persons licensed by the Board (irrespective of their licensure status, whether active, inactive, expired, lapsed, surrendered or disciplined) relative to acts, omissions, complaints, and investigations that occurred during the licensure period.
 - b. Against Persons who engage in the unlawful practice of Landscape Architecture as defined under this Act.
- (iii) With probable cause that an Applicant or Licensee has engaged in conduct prohibited under this Act or its regulations, the Board may issue an order directing Applicant or Licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination or chemical dependency evaluation. Every Applicant or Licensee is deemed to consent to undergo mental, physical, or chemical-dependency examinations, when ordered by the Board to do so in writing, and to waive all objections to the admissibility of the examiner's or evaluator's testimony or reports on the grounds that such testimony or reports constitute a privileged or confidential communication.
- (iv) The Board may investigate and inspect any Licensee at all reasonable hours to determine a violation of the laws or regulations governing the practice of Landscape Architecture.

The Board, its officers, investigators, inspectors, and representatives shall cooperate with all agencies charged with enforcement of laws of the United States, [Jurisdiction], and all other Jurisdictions relating to the practice of Landscape Architecture.

- (v) The Board can subpoena persons and documents in connection with its complaint investigations before commencing, and during, any formal Adjudicatory Proceeding to take depositions and testimony as in civil cases in [Jurisdiction] courts. Any Board member, Hearing officer, or administrative law judge has power to administer oaths to witnesses at any Hearing the Board conducts, and any other oath the Board is authorized by law to administer.
- (vi) The Board may conduct its authorized investigations, inquiries, or Hearings before any Board member(s). The findings and orders of such member(s) are deemed to be the findings and orders of the Board when approved and confirmed as set forth in Section 211(E) of Article II of this Act.
- (vii) The Board may report any violation of this Act or its regulations that implicates criminal law to the Attorney General or State's Attorney who shall without delay institute appropriate proceedings and investigations in the proper court for prosecution as required by law.
- (viii) The Board may seek declaratory, injunctive, and other appropriate remedies from a court with jurisdiction.

E. Recovery of Costs and Assessment of Fines.

- (i) The Board may assess against a respondent reasonable costs (e.g., attorneys' fees, investigation and prosecution costs) of any Adjudicatory Proceeding through which respondent is found to have violated any law or regulation governing the practice of Landscape Architecture. The assessment of reasonable costs must be formalized in a Board order directing payment of the costs to the Board, and issued together with the Board's final decision.

This authorization to assess costs exists so long as the Board operates in good faith and succeeds on any portion of the administrative prosecution, and even if some counts are not substantiated.

- (ii) In the case of a Person, the Board may issue an order for recovery of reasonable costs authorized under this Section 213 to the corporate owner, if any, and to any Licensee, officer, owner, or partner of the practice or Business Entity:
 - a. found to have knowledge of, or
 - b. who should have reasonably known of, or
 - c. who knowingly participated in, a violation of any provision of this Act or any regulation issued hereunder.

Section 213(E)

This section authorizes the board to assess fines and costs as administrative sanctions of disciplined respondents. Differentiating costs (reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses related to administrative prosecution of respondents) and fines (monetary assessments intended to deter future conduct) is important. Both cost assessments and fines are important tools used when negotiating resolution of complaints.

- (iii) When the Board issues an order to pay costs, and timely payment of the costs is not made to the Board as directed in its final decision and order, the Board may enforce the order in the [Jurisdiction] Courts in the county where the Adjudicatory Proceeding occurred. The Board's right of enforcement is in addition to other rights the Board has concerning Persons directed to pay costs, including denial of licensure.
- (iv) In any action for recovery of costs, the Board's final decision and order is conclusive proof of the validity of the order and terms of payment.
- (v) The Board may assess administrative fines against a respondent not exceeding \$[dollars] for each count adjudicated a violation of law or regulation governing the practice of Landscape Architecture. Assessment of fines must be formalized in a Board order directing payment of such fines to the Board, and issued together with the Board's final decision. The Board is authorized to assess additional fines for continued violation(s) of any Board order.

This authorization to assess fines exists so long as the Board operates in good faith and succeeds on any portion of the administrative prosecution, even if some counts are not substantiated.

F. Expenditure of Funds. The Board may receive and expend funds from parties other than [Jurisdiction], in addition to its (Annual/Biennial) appropriation, provided:

- (i) Such funds are awarded to pursue a specific objective the Board is authorized to accomplish under this Act, or is qualified to accomplish by reason of its jurisdiction or professional expertise.
- (ii) Such funds are expended to pursue the specific objective for which they were awarded.
- (iii) Activities connected with, or occasioned by, spending the funds do not interfere with the Board's performance of its duties and responsibilities and do not conflict with the Board's exercise of its powers under this Act.
- (iv) Funds are segregated in a separate account.
- (v) The Board provides periodic written reports to jurisdiction's governing body detailing its receipt and use of the funds, provides sufficient information for governmental oversight, and notes that such reports are deemed a public record under applicable law.

G. Fees for Services. In addition to fees specifically provided for under this Act, the Board shall establish nonrefundable fees, including (but not limited to) the following:

- (i) Applications.
- (ii) Examination administration.
- (iii) Renewals.
- (iv) Board publications.
- (v) Data maintained by the Board, which may include mailing lists, Licensee lists, or other information requested under applicable open-records laws.
- (vi) Copies of audiotapes, videotapes, computer discs, or other media used for recording sounds, images, or information.
- (vii) Temporary, duplicate, or replacement licenses or certificates.
- (viii) Notices of meetings.
- (ix) Returned checks.
- (x) Other fees deemed necessary by the Board.

The Board shall publish a list of established fees and deposit and expend the fees it collects in accord with [Jurisdiction] statutes.

H. Other Powers and Duties of the Board. The Board is granted other powers and duties necessary to enforce regulations issued under this Act including, but not limited to, the following:

- (i) The Board may belong to professional organizations, societies, and associations that promote improvement of Landscape Architecture practice standards for protection of public health, safety, and welfare, or whose activities support the Board's mission.
- (ii) The Board may establish a Bill of Rights concerning the landscape-architectural services Clients may expect to receive.
- (iii) The Board may collect, and participate in collecting, professional demographic data.

I. Oversight of Board through Annual Report. To provide continued oversight, the Board shall file with the Governor an annual report on the Board's activities, including reference to the Board's effectiveness and efficiencies. The annual report shall, through statistics, at minimum, identify the number of Licensees, Applicants, renewals, complaints, and disposition of such complaints, the number of Board meetings, and all financial data relevant to Board operations.

Section 213(G)

This section identifies that the Board is able to charge fees for various services and documents, including for processing applications, to offset expenses of board operations.

Section 213(H)(ii)

This section authorizes the Board to establish a Code of Conduct intended to provide clients and licensees with what to expect of the relationship. Information that may be included: how the practitioner is regulated and by whom, how a complaint can be filed, how billing and payment occur; expected work product, time period to completion, and other contractual details.

Section 213(I)

This section identifies the oversight intended through the statute by setting expectations regarding reporting. It references an annual report filed by the Board including its contents.

Section 214. Source of Data.

When making determinations under this Act, and to promote uniformity and administrative efficiencies, the Board may rely on the expertise of, and documentation and verified data gathered and stored by, not-for-profit organizations sharing the Board's public-protection mission.

Article III - Licensing

Section 301. Unlawful Practice.

- A. Unless this Act provides otherwise, it is unlawful to engage or offer to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture unless the acting party is licensed as a Landscape Architect under this Act.
- B. No Person offering services may use the designation *Professional Landscape Architect*, *Registered Landscape Architect* or *Licensed Landscape Architect*, or any other designation, words, or letters indicating licensure as a Landscape Architect, including abbreviations, or hold himself or herself out as a Landscape Architect unless licensed by the Board.
- C. Providing any service defined under this Act as the practice of Landscape Architecture to a Client in [Jurisdiction] through digital, telephonic, electronic, or other means, regardless of the service provider's location, constitutes the practice of Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] and requires the service provider's licensure under this Act.
- D. Providing any service defined under this Act as the practice of Landscape Architecture by a service provider located in [Jurisdiction] through digital, telephonic, electronic, or other means, regardless of the location of the Client receiving such services, constitutes the practice of Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] and requires the service provider's licensure under this Act.
- E. Any Person who, after Hearing, is found by the Board to have unlawfully engaged in the practice of Landscape Architecture is, in addition to any other authorized remedies, subject to a fine imposed by the Board not exceeding \$[dollars] for each offense, and the imposition of costs described in this Act.
- F. Nothing in this Act prevents members of other professions from engaging in the practice for which they are licensed by the Jurisdiction. However, such other professionals shall not hold themselves out as licensed Landscape Architects or refer to themselves by any title, designation, words, abbreviations, or other description stating or implying they are engaged in, or licensed to engage in, the practice of Landscape Architecture.

Section 214

This section authorizes the Board to rely on the private sector for certain services to promote efficiencies and uniformity. It recognizes the existence of CLARB-like organizations and that such associations can provide a wealth of services and products consistent with the Board's public-protection mission.

Section 301

This section addresses the fact that practice and use of titles are limited to licensees and that unlicensed persons are prohibited from practicing landscape architecture or using titles that confuse the public.

Section 301(C) and (D)

These sections recognize that electronic practice and other means of technology affect professional practice and need regulation through statute. Sections (C) and (D) establish where practice occurs and that the Board has authority over such modalities of practice.

Section 301(E)

This section establishes jurisdiction/authority of the Board to administratively prosecute unlicensed persons. This authority is essential to the Board's ability to protect the public and not rely solely on criminal prosecutions.

Section 302. Qualifications for Licensure.

- A. Qualification for Licensure: To obtain a License to practice Landscape Architecture in this Jurisdiction, an Applicant must complete an application in a form determined by the Board and satisfy the following requirements:
- (i) **Education:** Either (1) hold a degree in landscape architecture accredited by the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Accreditation Council (LAAC), or their international equivalent, as determined by the Board; or (2) satisfy the alternative education requirements as determined by the Board; **and**
 - (ii) **Experience:** Have completed two (2) years of experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect or a licensed professional in a related field, as may be defined or otherwise determined by the Board; **and**
 - (iii) **Examination:** Pass the Examination; **or**
 - (iv) **Reciprocity:** In lieu of providing evidence that the Applicant has completed the education, experience, and Examination requirements specified in provisions (i) through (iii) of this Section 302(A), provide evidence acceptable to the Board that the Applicant is licensed and in Good Standing to practice Landscape Architecture under the laws of another Jurisdiction and other requirements as established by the Board.

B. Examinations and Examination Attempts

- i) Consistent with Section 214, the Board is authorized to use and rely on any Examination determined by the Board to assess necessary entry-level Competence. Such Examinations must be administered often enough to meet the Applicant population's needs, as determined by the Board.
- ii) The Board can limit the number of examination attempts by issuing a rule addressing such limits based on industry standards for high-stakes licensure Examination.

Section 302(A)

This section sets forth the eligibility criteria for licensure, both initial licensure and reciprocity. CLARB elected to include the licensure eligibility criteria for both applicants under the same section for ease of reference.

Section 302(B)

This section authorizes the Board to determine what examination is necessary to assess entry-level competence as part of the licensure application process. Under Article II section 214, the Board is already authorized to rely on outside private entities for certain services so long as they share the Board's public-protection mission.

This section also authorizes the Board to promulgate rules related to limits on examination attempts.

Section 303. Qualifications for Certificate of Authorization

A. Business Entities organized to practice Landscape Architecture must obtain a Certificate of Authorization before doing business in [Jurisdiction]. No Business Entity may provide Landscape Architectural services, hold itself out to the public as providing Landscape Architectural services, or use a name including the terms *Landscape Architect*, *professional Landscape Architect*, or *registered Landscape Architect*, or confusingly similar terms, unless the Business Entity first obtains a Certificate of Authorization from the Board. To obtain a Certificate of Authorization a Business Entity must meet the following criteria:

- (i) At least one Principal is designated as in Responsible Charge for the activities and decisions relating to the practice of Landscape Architecture, is licensed to practice Landscape Architecture by the Board, and is a regular employee of, and active participant in, the Business Entity.
- (ii) Each Person engaged in the practice of Landscape Architecture is licensed to practice Landscape Architecture by the Board.
- (iii) Each separate office or place of business established in this Jurisdiction by the Business Entity has a licensed Landscape Architect regularly supervising and responsible for the work done and activities conducted there.

This requirement does not apply to offices or places of business established to provide construction-administration services only.

B. Business Entities shall apply to the Board for a Certificate of Authorization on a Board-prescribed form, providing Principals' names and addresses and other information the Board requires. The application must be accompanied by an application fee fixed by the Board, and must be renewed per the Board's renewal requirements.

The Applicant shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any change in the status of registered principals, the firm's name or address, or a branch office address or designated Licensee. If a Principal changes, the Applicant shall provide details of the change to the Board within 30 days after the effective change date.

C. If the Board finds the Business Entity is in compliance with this section's requirements, it shall issue a Certificate of Authorization to such Business Entity designating the Business Entity as authorized to provide Landscape Architectural services.

- D. No Business Entity issued a Certificate of Authorization under this section is relieved of responsibility for the conduct or acts of its agents, employees or principals by reason of its compliance with this section, nor is any individual practicing Landscape Architecture relieved of responsibility and liability for services performed by reason of employment or relationship with such Business Entity. This section does not affect a Business Entity and its employees performing services solely for the benefit of the Business Entity, or a subsidiary or affiliated business entity. Nothing in this section exempts Business Entities from other applicable law.

Section 304. Qualifications for Practice under Disaster Declaration

Disaster Declaration. Any Person licensed to practice Landscape Architecture in another Jurisdiction who provides services within the scope of their License and in response to a disaster declared by the governor or other appropriate authority of [Jurisdiction] may, on prior written notice to the Board, provide such services in [Jurisdiction] without a License issued by the Board for the duration of the declared emergency. Any practitioner providing services under this Section 304 submits to the Board's jurisdiction and is bound by [Jurisdiction] law. The Board retains authority to remove, revoke, rescind, or restrict this disaster-declaration practice privilege without Hearing by majority vote of its members.

Section 305. Requirement of Continuing Competence.

The Board shall by regulation establish requirements for continuing Competence, including determination of acceptable Continuing Education program content. The Board shall issue regulations necessary to the stated objectives and purposes of Continuing Education and to enforce this Section 305 to ensure Licensees' continuing Competence.

Section 306. Requirements for Licensure Renewal.

- A. To maintain licensure, each Licensee shall renew such License when and in the manner established by the Board.
- B. To renew licensure, each Licensee shall provide documentation satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of at least 12 Continuing Education Contact Hours of an Approved Program of Continuing Education per year.
- C. To maintain licensure, each Business Entity shall renew its License when and in the manner established by the Board.

Section 304

This section addresses the temporary practice privileges of licensees in other states to come into the state and practice for a limited time corresponding with a declared disaster. This language is consistent with the EMAC legislation that allows temporary practice under declared emergencies.

Section 307. Nonrenewal of Licensure; Requirements for Reinstatement of Expired License.

- A. Failure to renew a License by the designated renewal date as prescribed under applicable law, this Act, and its regulations will result in License expiration, which terminates authority to practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction].

Applicants for reinstatement of an expired License must substantiate by documentation satisfactory to the Board that Applicant meets the following criteria:

- i) When no more than 120 days have passed since the License expiration date, an Applicant for License reinstatement shall submit to the Board:
 - a. A written petition for License reinstatement addressed to the Board.
 - b. A completed and signed application for License reinstatement.
 - c. Documentation of successful completion of all applicable licensure-renewal requirements.
 - d. A written and signed attestation by the Applicant that the Applicant has not practiced Landscape Architecture at any time during the period of License expiration.
 - e. All applicable fees, including a late fee determined by the Board that does not exceed three times the Board's initial licensure application fee.
 - ii) When more than 120 days have passed since the License expiration date, an Applicant for License reinstatement shall meet the requirements set forth in this Section 307(A)(i) and Section 302 of Article III of this Act. However, any application under this Section 307 is deemed an application for License reinstatement.
- B. The Board may impose additional reasonable License-reinstatement requirements necessary to fulfill its public-protection mission.
- C. The Board may also consider relevant extenuating circumstances submitted with any petition and application for License reinstatement in which Applicant demonstrates hardship, so long as the Board maintains its public-protection mission in considering the petition and application.

Section 308. Inactive License.

The Board shall by regulation establish procedures for issuing an Inactive License to a Licensee in Good Standing, under which the Applicant is exempted from licensure renewal requirements, but is not authorized to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture while inactive.

Reinstatement of an Inactive License to active status will occur under procedures established by the Board and include an application for License reinstatement, payment of a reinstatement fee not to exceed two (2) times the initial licensure fee, and an attestation by Applicant that Applicant has not practiced Landscape Architecture while inactive.

Article IV - Discipline

Section 401. Grounds; Penalties; Reinstatement of License Following Board Discipline.

- A. The Board may refuse to issue or renew, or may suspend, revoke, reprimand, restrict or otherwise limit the License of, or fine, any Person, whether or not licensed, under the [Jurisdiction] Administrative Procedure Act or the procedures in Article IV, Section 402 of this Act, on one or more of the following grounds as determined by the Board:
- (i) Unprofessional conduct as determined by the Board.
 - (ii) Unethical conduct as determined by the Board.
 - (iii) Practice outside the scope of practice authorized under this Act or its regulations.
 - (iv) Conduct in violation of this Act or its regulations, including failure to cooperate with the Board's inspection or investigative processes within a reasonable time.
 - (v) Incapacity or impairment, for whatever reason, that prevents a Licensee from engaging in the practice of Landscape Architecture with reasonable skill, Competence, and safety to the public.
 - (vi) Adjudication resulting in a finding of mental incompetence by regularly constituted authorities.
 - (vii) Conviction of a Felony as defined under [Jurisdiction] or federal law.
 - (viii) Violation of any law, rule, or regulation of [Jurisdiction], any other Jurisdiction, or the federal government, pertaining to any aspect of the practice of Landscape Architecture.
 - (ix) Misrepresentation of a fact by an Applicant or Licensee:
 - a. In securing or attempting to secure the issuance or renewal of a License.
 - b. In any statement regarding the Person's skills or value of any service/treatment provided, or to be provided.

Section 401

This section delineates the grounds for administrative discipline of respondents found to have violated the Act. CLARB has elected to specify the grounds to ensure adequate scope of authority for the Board to protect the public through enforcement proceedings.

- c. Using any false, fraudulent, or deceptive statement in connection with the practice of Landscape Architecture including, but not limited to, false or misleading advertising.
- (x) Licensee Fraud related to the practice of Landscape Architecture, including engaging in improper or fraudulent billing practices.
- (xi) Engaging in, or aiding and abetting any Person engaging in, the practice of Landscape Architecture without a License, or falsely using the title Landscape Architect, or a confusingly similar title.
- (xii) Failing to conform to accepted minimum standards of practice or failing to maintain a Landscape Architectural Business Entity at accepted minimum standards.
- (xiii) Attempting to use the License of another.
- (xiv) Failing to pay costs assessed in connection with a Board Adjudicatory Proceeding, or failing to comply with any stipulation or agreement involving probation or settlement of such Proceeding, or any order entered by the Board in such Proceeding.
- (xv) Conduct that violates the security of any Examination or Examination materials including, but not limited to:
 - a. Removing from the Examination setting any Examination material without appropriate authorization.
 - b. Unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the Examination.
 - c. Aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the Examination.
 - d. Paying, or using professional or paid examination-takers, for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the Examination.
 - e. Obtaining Examination questions or other Examination material, except by appropriate authorization before, during, or after an Examination administration.
 - f. Using or purporting to use any Examination question or material that was improperly removed, or taken from, any Examination.
 - g. Selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered Examination.

Section 401(A)(xv)

This section ensures that violations of examination agreements, including examination breaches and security protocols, constitute grounds for discipline. For the benefit of the public, and the integrity of licensure and examination processes, this authority is essential.

- h. Communicating in any manner with any other examinee during the administration of an Examination.
 - i. Copying answers from any other examinee or permitting one's answers to be copied by any other examinee.
 - j. Examinee's possession during the administration of any Examination any books, equipment, notes, written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the Examination materials provided, or otherwise authorized to be in the examinee's possession during any Examination.
 - k. Impersonating any examinee or having any Person take any Examination on the examinee's behalf.
- (xvi) Failure of a Licensee or Applicant to report to the Board any information required under Article VI of this Act.
- (xvii) Having had any right, credential, or license to practice a profession in this or another Jurisdiction subjected to adverse action or denial of right to practice. In such case, a certified copy of the record of the adverse action or denial of right to practice is conclusive evidence of such disciplinary action or denial.
- B. The Board may defer discipline or other action regarding any impaired Licensee who enters into a binding agreement, in a form satisfactory to the Board, under which Licensee agrees not to practice Landscape Architecture and to enter into, and comply with, a Board-approved treatment and monitoring program in accordance with Board regulations.

This Section 401(B) does not apply to any Licensee convicted of, or who pleads guilty or *nolo contendere* to, a Felony, or to Licensee Convictions in another Jurisdiction or federal court relating to controlled substances or sexual misconduct.

- C. Subject to a Board order, any Person whose License to practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction] is suspended or restricted under this Act (whether by formal agreement with or by action of the Board), has the right, at reasonable intervals, to petition the Board for License reinstatement. The petition must be in writing and in the form prescribed by the Board.

After investigation and Hearing, the Board may grant or deny the petition, or modify its original findings to reflect circumstances changed sufficiently to warrant granting or denying the petition or modifying the findings and order. The Board may require petitioner to pass one or more Examination(s) or complete Continuing Education in addition to that required for licensure renewal, or impose any other sanction, condition, or action appropriate for reentering into the practice of Landscape Architecture and public protection.

- D. The Board, after Consultation and concurrence with the [(County) District Attorney or [Jurisdiction] Attorney General], may issue a cease- and-desist order to stop any Person from engaging in the unlawful practice of Landscape Architecture or from violating any statute, regulation, or Board order. The cease-and-desist order must state the reason for its issuance and explain the Person's right to request a Hearing under the [Jurisdiction] Administrative Procedure Act. This provision does not bar criminal prosecutions by appropriate authorities for violations of this Act.
- E. Final Board decisions and orders after a Hearing are subject to judicial review under the [Jurisdiction] Administrative Procedure Act, unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 402. Summary Suspension.

The Board may, without a Hearing, temporarily suspend a License for up to 60 days when the Board concludes a Landscape Architect violated any law or regulation the Board is authorized to enforce, and if continued practice by the Landscape Architect portends imminent risk of harm to the public (notwithstanding [Jurisdiction]'s Administrative Procedure Act). The suspension takes effect on written notice to the Landscape Architect specifying the law or regulation allegedly violated. When the Board issues the suspension notice, it shall schedule and notify the Licensee of an Adjudicatory Proceeding to be held under the [Jurisdiction] Administrative Procedure Act within [number] days after the notice is issued.

Section 402

This section authorizes the Board to suspend a license immediately without a hearing under identified circumstances that create imminent harm to the public. Such respondents are provided with a hearing within an identified period of time under administrative procedures.

Article V - Mandatory Reporting

Section 501. Requirement to Report.

Any Applicant, Licensee or Person with knowledge of conduct by any Person that may be grounds for disciplinary action under this Act or its regulations, or of any unlicensed practice under this Act, shall report such conduct to the Board.

Section 502. Reporting Other Licensed Professionals.

Any Applicant, Licensee or Person shall report to applicable licensing Boards conduct by a Licensee that is, or may be, grounds for disciplinary action under applicable law, if the conduct must by law be reported to such licensing boards.

Section 503. Reporting by Courts.

The administrator of any court with jurisdiction shall report to the Board any court judgment or other determination that an Applicant for licensure by the Board or a Licensee is mentally ill, mentally incompetent, guilty of a Felony, guilty of violating federal or Jurisdiction narcotics laws or controlled substances act, or guilty of crimes reasonably related to the practice of Landscape Architecture, or that appoints a guardian of Applicant or Licensee, or commits Applicant or Licensee under applicable law.

Section 504. Self-Reporting by Applicant for Licensure and Licensee.

An Applicant for licensure by the Board or a Licensee shall self-report to the Board any personal conduct or action that requires a report be filed under Article IV of this Act.

Section 505. Reporting Deadlines; Forms.

All reports required by this Act must be submitted to the Board no later than 30 days after the reportable conduct or action occurs. The Board may provide forms for reports required by Article VI of this Act and may require that reports be submitted on the forms. The Board may issue regulations to ensure prompt and accurate reporting as required by Article VI of this Act.

Section 506. Immunity for Reporters.

Any Person who in good faith submits a report required under Article VI of this Act, or who otherwise reports, provides information, or testifies in connection with alleged violations of this Act, is immune from liability or prosecution. Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, the identity of Persons submitting mandated reports is not disclosable, except as required in connection with an Adjudicatory Proceeding initiated by the Board or other proceeding in courts with jurisdiction.

Article VI - Other

Section 601. Severability.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or illegal, or the applicability of this Act to any Person or circumstance is held invalid by a court with jurisdiction, the constitutionality or legality of the Act's other provisions and the Act's application to other persons and circumstances, is not affected, and those provisions remain in full force and effect, without the invalid provision or application.

Section 602. Effective Date.

This Act is effective on [date].

Model Regulations

Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards

Last Approved: April 2022

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PREFACE

Duly enacted statutes provide the basis for establishing a regulatory structure by legislatively creating and delegating authority to the regulatory board. Such statutes (practice acts) establish the basis for and authority of each licensing board. The CLARB Model Law, as structured, would delegate to the licensing board the authority to promulgate regulations/rules that are intended to provide specificity to the statutes using the expertise of the Board, which is generally populated with subject matter experts (licensees) and members of the public. (See *CLARB Model Law Article II, Sections 202, 203*)

For purposes of this document, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board (CLARB) uses the term “regulations.” For the most part, rules and regulations are terms that can be used interchangeably. Duly promulgated regulations have the force of law and can be used as a basis for board action(s). This is why the process for proposing, discussing, seeking public comment and modifying proposed regulations must follow strict adherence to each licensing board’s jurisdictional law administrative procedures before becoming effective. Such administrative procedures can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

The CLARB Model Law would authorize the Board to promulgate regulations. While the CLARB Model Law represents a complete document, the Model Regulations are not intended to provide a complete set of regulations, but rather they provide guidance on the subjects needing regulations. CLARB’s intention in putting forward these Model Regulations is to offer recommended language for the rules that would implement the Model Law. The Model Regulations is a fluid document that will be subjected to regular review and, where necessary, change. Of course, CLARB Member Boards are encouraged to use this model as a resource when necessary to address or suggest proposed legislative language in both statutes and regulations.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of adopting regulations is to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public by ensuring the proper performance of the duties of each licensing board and the regulation of its procedures, meetings, records, examinations and the conduct thereof. The regulations ultimately adopted by regulatory boards may not be inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the board’s jurisdiction. A jurisdiction’s law governing the practice of landscape architecture must be approved by the appropriate legislative authority of the jurisdiction. Regulations duly adopted by a licensing board are binding upon individuals licensed or recognized under the licensure or practice act and on non-licensees found by the Board to be in violation of provisions of the act and shall be applicable to firms that hold or should hold a Certificate of Authorization, if so regulated by the act.

103.10 PURPOSE.

These regulations are promulgated by the Board of Landscape Architects under [cite statutes] for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and welfare. These regulations contain the information necessary to become licensed as a Landscape Architect, or offer landscape architectural services as a Business Entity.

104.10 PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

The practice of Landscape Architecture is defined as any service where landscape architectural education, training, experience and the application of mathematical, physical and social science principles are applied in consultation, evaluation, planning, design (including, but not limited to, the preparation and filing of plans, drawings, specifications and other contract documents) and administration of contracts relative to projects principally directed at the functional and aesthetic use and preservation of land.

Services included in the licensed scope of Landscape Architecture include, but are not limited to the following:

- Investigation, selection and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate uses;
- Formulation of feasibility studies, and graphic and written criteria to govern the planning, design and management of land and water resources;
- Preparation, review and analysis of land use master plans, subdivision plans and preliminary plats;
- Determining the location and siting of improvements, including buildings and other features, as well as the access and environs for those improvements;
- Design of land forms and land form elements, storm water drainage, soil conservation and erosion control methods, pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems and related construction details;
- Consultation, planning, designing or responsible supervision in connection with the development of land areas for preservation and enhancement;
- Design of non-habitable structures for aesthetic and functional purposes, such as pools, walls and structures for outdoor living spaces, for public and private use;
- Determination of proper land use as it pertains to natural features; ground cover, use, nomenclature and arrangement of plant material adapted to soils and climate; naturalistic and aesthetic values; settings and approaches to structures and other improvements; and the development of outdoor space in accordance with ideals of human use and enjoyment;
- Design with a priority to ensure equal access to all public goods and services through the use of barrier-free design in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Consideration of the health, safety and welfare of the public. Public welfare is defined through: environmental sustainability; contribution to economic sustainability and benefits; promotes public health and well-being; builds communities; encourages landscape awareness/stewardship; offers aesthetic and creative experiences; and enables people and communities to function more effectively.

105.10 ACTIVITIES NOT SUBJECT TO THE ACT.

Effective regulation is targeted to address the specific risks of harm to consumers and not to restrict competition or be a barrier to incentives for innovation in products and services.

The activities to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture shall not be construed to prevent or to affect the right of any individual licensed in related design profession practicing within their licensed scope. In addition, nothing shall be construed to prevent or affect the right of any individual to engage in any occupation related to growing, marketing and the design of landscaping material.

106.10 DEFINITIONS.

The [CLARB Model Law Section 106 Definitions] provides definitions applicable to the [CLARB Model Regulations].

213.10 POWERS AND DUTIES DELEGATED TO BOARD.

Authority is delegated to the Board by the [Jurisdiction] legislature to effectively and efficiently regulate the profession of Landscape Architecture in the interest of public protection.

213.11 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

Pursuant to [CLARB Model Law Section 213(C)(i)], the Board is authorized to establish and enforce minimum standards of practice and conduct for Landscape Architects and to provide Licensees and Clients with expectations regarding professional conduct.

A. Competence.

- (i) In engaging in the practice of Landscape Architecture, a Licensee shall act with reasonable care and competence, and shall apply the technical knowledge and skill which are ordinarily applied by Landscape Architects of good standing, practicing in the same locality.
- (ii) In designing a project, a Landscape Architect shall abide by all applicable federal state, county, regional and municipal laws and regulations. While a Landscape Architect may rely on the advice of other professionals, (e.g., attorneys, engineers and other qualified persons) as to the intent and meaning of such regulations, once having obtained such advice, a Landscape Architect shall not knowingly design a project in violation of such laws and regulations.
- (iii) A Landscape Architect shall undertake to perform professional services only when he or she, together with those whom the Landscape Architect may engage as consultants, is qualified by education, training and experience in the specific technical areas involved.
- (iv) No individual shall be permitted to engage in the practice of Landscape Architecture if, in the Board's judgment, such individual's professional competence is substantially impaired by physical or mental disabilities.

B. Conflict of Interest.

- (i) A Landscape Architect shall not accept compensation for his or her services from more than one party on a project unless the circumstances are fully disclosed to and agreed to by (such disclosure and agreement to be in writing) all interested parties.
- (ii) If a Landscape Architect has any business association or direct or indirect financial interest which is substantial enough to influence his or her judgment in connection with his or her performance of professional services, the Landscape Architect shall fully disclose in writing to his or her client or employer the nature of the business association or financial interest, and, if the client or employer objects to such association or financial interest, the Landscape Architect will either terminate such association or interest or offer to give up the commission or employment.
- (iii) A Landscape Architect shall not solicit or accept compensation from material or equipment suppliers in return for specifying or endorsing their products.

- (iv) When acting as the interpreter of construction contract documents and the judge of contract performance, a Landscape Architect shall render decisions impartially, favoring neither party to the contract.

C. Full Disclosure.

- (i) A Landscape Architect, making public statements on landscape architectural questions, shall disclose when he or she is being compensated for making such statements.
- (ii) A Landscape Architect shall accurately represent to a prospective or existing client or employer his or her qualifications and the scope of his or her responsibility in connection with work for which he or she is claiming credit.
- (iii) If, in the course of his or her work on a project, a Landscape Architect becomes aware of a decision taken by his or her employer or client, against such Landscape Architect's advice, which violates applicable federal, state, county, regional or municipal laws and regulations and which will, in the Landscape Architect's judgment, materially and adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of the public, the Landscape Architect shall:
 - a. report the decision to the applicable public official charged with the enforcement of the applicable laws and regulations;
 - b. refuse to consent to the decision; and
 - c. in circumstances where the Landscape Architect reasonably believes that other such decisions will be taken, notwithstanding his or her objections, terminate his or her services with respect to the project. In the case of a termination in accordance with this clause (3), the Landscape Architect shall have no liability to his or her client or employer on account of such termination.
- (iv) A Landscape Architect shall not deliberately make a materially false statement or fail deliberately to disclose a material fact requested in connection with his or her application for a registration or renewal thereof.
- (v) A Landscape Architect shall not assist the application for a registration of an individual known by the Landscape Architect to be unqualified in respect to education, training, or experience .
- (vi) A Landscape Architect possessing knowledge of a violation of the provisions set forth in these rules by another Landscape Architect shall report such knowledge to the Board.

D. Compliance with Laws.

- (i) A Landscape Architect shall not, while engaging in the practice of Landscape Architecture, knowingly violate any state or federal criminal law.
- (ii) A Landscape Architect shall neither offer nor make any payment or gift to a government official (whether elected or appointed) with the intent of influencing the official's judgment in connection with a prospective or existing project in which the Landscape Architect is interested.
- (iii) A Landscape Architect shall not solicit a contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of the licensee's organization serves as a member, except upon public disclosure of all pertinent facts and circumstances and consent of the appropriate public authority.
- (iv) A Landscape Architect shall not offer, directly or indirectly, to pay a commission or other consideration or to make a political contribution or other gift in order to secure work, except for payment made to an employment agency for its services.
- (v) A Landscape Architect shall comply with the registration laws and regulations governing his or her professional practice in any jurisdiction.

- (vi) Each Landscape Architect shall cooperate with the Board in its investigation of complaints or possible violations of the [Jurisdiction] Statutes or Regulations of the Board. This cooperation shall include responding timely to written communications from the Board, providing any information or documents requested within 30 days of the date on which the communication was mailed, and appearing before the Board or its designee upon request.
- (vii) Landscape Architect shall not violate any order of the Board.

E. Professional Conduct.

- (i) Each office in [Jurisdiction] maintained for the preparation of drawings, specifications, reports or other professional landscape architectural work shall have a licensed Landscape Architect resident and regularly employed in that office having direct supervision of such work.
- (ii) A Landscape Architect shall not sign or seal drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work for which he or she does not have direct professional knowledge and direct supervisory control; provided, however, that in the case of the portions of such professional work prepared by the Landscape Architect's consultants, registered under this or another professional registration of [Jurisdiction], the Landscape Architect may sign or seal that portion of the professional work if the Landscape Architect has reviewed such portion, has coordinated its preparation and intends to be responsible for its adequacy.
- (iii) A Landscape Architect shall neither offer nor make any gifts, other than gifts of nominal value (including, for example, reasonable entertainment and hospitality), with the intent of influencing the judgment of an existing or prospective client in connection with a project in which the Landscape Architect is interested.
- (iv) A Landscape Architect shall not engage in conduct involving fraud or wanton disregard of the rights of others.
- (v) In all professional reports, statements and testimony, each Landscape Architect shall be completely objective and truthful and include all relevant and pertinent information.
- (vi) Conviction of a felony or the revocation or suspension of a professional license by another jurisdiction, if for a cause the State of [Jurisdiction] would constitute a violation of [Jurisdiction] law or of these regulations, or both, shall constitute unprofessional conduct.

213.12 FEES FOR SERVICES.

[Insert schedule of fees, with cross-references to [CLARB Model Law Section 213(G)] permitting the Board to establish fees, or any fees set by statute. This list should identify all categories of fees, including those to be established from time to time by the Board, and it should require the Board to maintain and provide to all individuals upon request a current and complete list of its fees.]

213.13 OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD.

In addition to the statutes of [Jurisdiction], other powers and duties of the Board shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. All members of the Board, including the chairperson, are entitled to vote and to make or to second motions. A majority vote of those present is required to pass a motion. The chairperson shall vote as a member of the Board.
- B. The latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the normal proceedings of the Board. Exceptions include hearings that may be disciplinary in nature.

- C. All applications and requests for which the Board has prescribed a form must be presented on these forms.
- D. A roster of all Licensees and firms holding a Certificate of Authorization will be updated annually and shall be accessible to the public.

213.14 SEALS.

Each licensed Landscape Architect shall procure a Seal, which shall contain the name of the Landscape Architect; his or her license number and the state or territory; and the words LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT—[Jurisdiction]. The Seal may be a rubber stamp, an embossed Seal, or a computer-generated Seal. After the Licensee's Seal has been applied to the original or record copy, the Licensee shall place the Licensee's signature and date across the Seal. This Seal shall comply in all respects, including size and format, which the specimen shown below:

[INSERT SPECIMEN SEAL IMPRINT]

- A. The Seal shall be imprinted on all technical submissions, as follows: On each design and each drawing; on the cover and index pages identifying each set of specifications; and on the cover page (and index, if applicable) of all other technical submissions. The original signature of the individual named on the Seal shall appear across the face of each original Seal imprint.

The Seal appearing on any technical submission shall be prima facie evidence that said technical submission was prepared by or under the direct supervision of the individual named on said Seal.

- B. All technical submissions prepared by a licensed Landscape Architect shall contain the following legend wherever the Landscape Architect's Seal appears: "The professional services of the Landscape Architect are undertaken for and are performed in the interest of [name of person employing Landscape Architect]. No contractual obligation is assumed by the Landscape Architect for the benefit of any other person involved in the project."
- C. Any Licensee may use a digital signature if the signature meets all of the following requirements: (1) Is unique to the person using it; (2) is able to be verified; (3) is under the sole control of the person using it; and (4) is linked to an electronic document bearing the digital signature in such a manner that the signature is invalidated if any data in the document is altered.

214.10 SOURCE OF DATA.

The Board may rely on the expertise of, and documentation and verified data gathered and stored by CLARB and other not-for-profit organizations as determined by the Board. This data shall include but is not limited to: CLARB Council Record; professional exam scores; verified educational transcripts; verified employment references; professional references; licensure history; disciplinary history; and other information gathered by third parties sharing the Board's public-protection mission.

The Board shall recognize all applicable Open Records Laws in [Jurisdiction] for data as it shall pertain to Records of the Board.

302.10 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE.

Pursuant to [CLARB Model Law Section 302] an applicant for licensure must substantiate each item listed in this referenced Section to the Board's satisfaction.

302.11 APPROVED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Select either option 1: Dynamic Incorporation.

In lieu of a degree in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB, LAAC, or their international equivalent, as established by [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(i)], an Applicant shall meet the "Alternative Education" standards for qualification for licensure set forth in the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard.¹

Or option 2: Static Incorporation by Reference

In lieu of a degree in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB, LAAC, or their international equivalent, as established by [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(i)], an Applicant shall meet the "Alternative Education" standards for qualification for licensure set forth in the April 2022 version of the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard.

Or option 3: Direct Incorporation

In lieu of a degree in landscape architecture accredited by LAAB, LAAC, or their international equivalent, an applicant must obtain six (6) additional years of experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture under the direct supervision of a licensed landscape architect or a licensed professional in a related field or, if eligible, an applicant may earn credit toward the remaining years of experience in regulated practice through one of the following options:

- A. If an applicant holds a non-accredited degree or certificate in landscape architecture, then the applicant may be credited with one (1) year of experience for each year of schooling completed up to a maximum of four (4) years of credited experience, OR
- B. If an applicant holds any degree or certificate, then the applicant may be credited with six (6) months of experience for each one (1) year of schooling completed up to a maximum of two (2) years of credited experience.

R. 302.11 and R. 302.12

This section provides three options for Boards to choose from. Although CLARB recommends that Boards select option 1, CLARB understands not all Boards may be authorized to use dynamic incorporation (i.e., incorporating a periodically updated standard, with each new version of that standard being given the force of law automatically when an updated standard is published).

Option 2 would require Boards to adopt new regulations periodically as new versions of the CLARB uniform licensing standard are published. These new regulations would refer to the version of the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard then in effect.

Option 3 would require Boards to adopt the content of the "Alternative Education" section of CLARB's Uniform Licensure Standard directly into regulations and update this periodically to reflect the text of the version currently in effect.

302.12 EXPERIENCE SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS.

Select either option 1: Dynamic Incorporation

For purposes of [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(ii)], to be considered “experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture,” an applicant must gain experience in the practice domains set forth in the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard.

Or option 2: Static Incorporation by Reference

For purposes of [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(ii)], to be considered “experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture,” an applicant must gain experience in the practice domains set forth in the April 2022 version of the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard.

Or option 3: Direct Incorporation

For purposes of [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(ii)], to be considered “experience in the regulated practice of landscape architecture,” an applicant must gain experience in the following practice domains to ensure competency necessary to protect the public and the environment:

1. Project and Construction Management: includes pre-project management, project management, bidding, construction, and maintenance;
2. Inventory and Analysis: includes site inventory, physical analysis, and contextual analysis;
3. Design: includes stakeholder process, master planning, and site design;
4. Grading, Drainage, and Construction Documentation: includes site preparation plans, general plans and details, specialty plans, and specifications.

For purposes of assigning credit for an applicant’s experience to satisfy the requirements under [CLARB Model Law Section 302(A)(ii) and CLARB Model Regulations 302.11], the Board shall evaluate an applicant’s experience according to the following standards:

- [INSERT EVALUATION CRITERION]²
- [INSERT EVALUATION CRITERION]
- [INSERT EVALUATION CRITERION]

² Each jurisdiction within the CLARB membership will determine how it will evaluate experience based on that jurisdiction’s unique circumstances and requirements.

302.13 EXAMINATIONS.

Applicants shall substantiate successful completion of CLARB's examinations where the examination administration and grading were conducted in accordance with CLARB's standards in effect at the time. CLARB examination administration requirements will be enforced as listed, but not limited to:

- A. examinations are offered on dates set by CLARB;
- B. locations at which the examinations are given are designated by CLARB;
- C. language of the examination will be English;
- D. results will be released in accordance with established CLARB policy;
- E. there shall be no post-administration access to, or review of, examination questions;
- F. re-examination limits shall be imposed by CLARB as necessary for the integrity of each exam;
- G. any applicant's examination results may be rejected by the Board and permission to retake an examination may be withheld by the Board upon a report by the testing administrator of any possible violation by the applicant of the provisions of any candidate testing agreement regarding examination irregularities.

303.10 QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION.

Pursuant to [CLARB Model Law Section 303] an applicant for a Certificate of Authorization must substantiate each item in this referenced Section to the Board's satisfaction.

305.10 REQUIREMENTS OF CONTINUING COMPETENCE.

The purpose of the continuing professional competency requirement is to demonstrate a continuing level of competency of Landscape Architects. Every Licensee shall meet the continuing professional competency requirements of these regulations for professional development as a condition for licensure renewal.

- A. Each Licensee shall have completed 12 (twelve) Continuing Education Contact Hours during the one-year period immediately preceding the renewal date established by the Board;
- B. Continuing Education Contact Hours shall be related to the practice of Landscape Architecture and address subjects in the protection of public Health/Safety/Welfare (HSW).
- C. Other activities may be accepted for Continuing Education credit upon approval by the Board;
- D. If Licensee is licensed to practice Landscape Architecture in another jurisdiction in which the Licensee resides, the Licensee may meet the Continuing Education requirements of the jurisdiction in which the Licensee resides. If such jurisdiction requires no Continuing Education, the Licensee shall meet the Continuing Education requirements of [Jurisdiction];
- E. Each dual Licensee shall earn at least 8 of the required Continuing Education credits for each renewal period in each profession;
- F. Excess Continuing Education Contact Hours may not be credited to a future calendar year;
- G. Each Licensee shall provide proof of satisfying the Continuing Education requirements as required by the Board. If the Licensee fails to furnish the information as required by the Board, the License shall not be renewed. If the Board does not approve of submitted Continuing Education, Licensee shall have a period of 120 days after notification to provide further information or additional Continuing Education.

305.11 APPROVED PROVIDERS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.

The following providers of Continuing Education programs have been approved by the Board and courses provided by approved providers are acceptable for meeting the mandatory Continuing Education requirements for licensure renewal:

- Landscape Architects Continuing Education System (LA CES)
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards (CLARB)
- [Jurisdiction] Board name
- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
- American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- Agencies of the state or federal government offering training programs in landscape architecture
- Accredited colleges and universities offering training programs in landscape architecture

306.10 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE RENEWAL.

- A. Each Licensee shall renew the License by [DATE] each year. A written or electronic notice shall be issued by the Board to each Licensee no later than 30 days before this renewal date. An expired License shall be terminated if not renewed by the renewal date. A late fee may be charged for renewals up to 60 days past this renewal date. A reinstatement will be necessary for licenses 120 days past the renewal date.
- B. Each Business Entity shall renew its Certificate of Authorization by [DATE] each year. A written or electronic notice shall be issued by the Board to each Licensee not later than 30 days before this renewal date. An expired Certificate of Authorization shall be terminated if not renewed by the renewal date. A late fee may be charged for renewals up to 60 days past the renewal date. A reinstatement will be necessary for Certificates of Authorization 120 days past the renewal date.
- C. A Licensee or Business Entity shall not practice Landscape Architecture after the expiration date until the License or Certificate of Authorization has been renewed or reinstated.

307.10 NON-RENEWAL OF LICENSURE; REQUIREMENTS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.

An individual may reinstate a terminated License from inactive, temporary, or emeritus status, or a terminated status by obtaining all delinquent required Continuing Education. Upon completion of a reinstatement application and proof that the individual has complied with the requirements for obtaining Continuing Education, the individual shall meet the Board's other requirements for reinstatement before reinstatement shall be granted.

Reinstatement of a Certificate of Authorization shall occur upon completion of a reinstatement application and requirements stated therein.

310.10 LICENSE STATUSES.

A. The following License statuses shall apply:

- (i) Active status shall require successful renewal every 2 (two) years with the appropriate fee and verification of continuing competency requirements.
- (ii) Inactive status shall require successful renewal every 2 (two) years with the appropriate fee. No continuing competency verification is required. The individual shall have no pending disciplinary action before the Board. The individual shall not practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction].
- (iii) Temporary status shall require a Disaster Declaration by the governor or other appropriate authority of [Jurisdiction]. Services by a Landscape Architecture must be provided within the scope of their License, on prior written notice to the Board and only provided for the duration of the declared emergency. [CLARB Model Law Section 304]
- (iv) Emeritus status shall require the individual to be at least 60 years of age. The individual shall submit a one-time application, with no fee and no verification of continuing competency required. The individual shall have no disciplinary action before the Board. Any individual who chooses this license status may use that individual's professional title in conjunction with the word "emeritus". The individual shall not practice Landscape Architecture in [Jurisdiction].

501.10 MANDATORY REPORTING.

Any Applicant, Licensee or Person with knowledge of conduct by any Person that may be grounds for disciplinary action under this Act or its regulations, or of any unlicensed practice under this Act, shall report such conduct to the Board on a form provided by the Board.

The form shall include but not be limited to information regarding the explanation of complaint, contact information of person making complaint, contact information of person who is the subject of complaint and other information as necessary for investigative purposes.

701.10 SEVERABILITY.

If any provision or application of these regulations is found to be invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of these regulations which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and therefore, the provisions of these regulations are declared to be severable.