

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations for Landscape Architects

Rule Identifier: 420-RICR-00-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: August 18, 2026

End of Public Comment: September 17, 2026

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-51-2

R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-51-9

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Department of Business Regulation, on behalf of the Board of Examiners for Landscape Architects (Board), has proposed these amendments to adopt the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard, codify existing licensing procedures and clarify application requirements.

The Board is a voting member of the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). CLARB prepares and administers the national landscape architecture licensing exam (L.A.R.E.), assists the Board with licensing by transmitting official records of exam scores, transcripts and work experience for applicants, and establishes model laws for landscape architect licensure for the United States and 5 Canadian provinces.

In 2022, CLARB's membership (including the RI Board) voted to adopt the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard for Landscape Architecture (Uniform Standard) as part of model law to establish common, consistent requirements for education, experience and examination across jurisdictions. This Uniform Standard fits into the Board's existing statutory requirements for licensure by clarifying the requirements for applications that do not have a board-approved accredited degree in landscape architecture. This will ensure consistent application of licensing laws, clear standards for staff and applicants, and increase the ability of RI landscape architects to become licensed in other states. RI would be the 12th jurisdiction to adopt the Uniform Standard. It has been adopted in: Alaska, Alberta (Canada), Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming, and will soon to be finalized in Colorado.

Summary of substantive amendments:

§ 1.4 – Definitions:

Added new definitions for the landscape architect degrees referred to in § 1.6 (BLA and MLA).

Defined "college or school of landscape architecture approved by the board," a phrase from R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-51-4, consistent with the Board's longstanding interpretation that this means accredited US and Canadian Landscape Architecture Degrees.

Added a definition of "international equivalent degree" to be ready for ongoing work CLARB is doing to determine equivalency with other countries.

Added a definition of "jurisdiction" from CLARB model law to clarify that this includes Canada.

Amended the definition of "CLARB certification" to relate to the adoption of the Uniform Standard.

§ 1.6(A)(2) – Clarified application current application procedures, consistent with current practice and similar requirements in the other design professional regulations.

§ 1.6(A)(3) – Adopted the CLARB Uniform Licensure Standard organized into 5 Categories based upon required years of experience.

§ 1.6(A)(4) – Clarify education requirements.

§ 1.6(A)(5) – Relocated and expanded explanation of experience documentation requirements consistent with the addition of the Uniform Standard. Added procedures for documenting experience gained in another country. Added examples from CLARB model law on the types of work experience that should be documented.

§ 1.6(B) – Clarified and updated existing reciprocity procedures, including requiring a CLARB Record for all reciprocal applications. CLARB records are already required for initial applications. Added procedures for reciprocal applicants to verify experience when former supervisor is deceased or otherwise unable to complete the verification form.

§ 1.6(E) – Authorized use of professional acronyms used by registrants in other states to indicate that the person is registered.

§ 1.8 – Relocated prior content to § 1.10(A). Added standard provision for reporting disciplinary actions and criminal records consistent with other Department regulations.

§ 1.10 – Minor updates consistent with changes to § 1.8.

§ 1.12(D)(2)(d) – Added missing word ("public") at the end of the sentence for clarity.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until September 17, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Dawne Broadfield
Board of Examiners of Landscape Architects
1511 Pontiac Ave, Bldg. 68-2
Cranston, RI 02920
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In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Adopting the uniform standard and clarifying licensure procedures benefits the profession and the state in multiple ways:

- Streamlines registration requirements;
- Reduces barriers and promotes greater professional mobility for RI registrants and for professionals seeking to move to or work in RI; and
- Provides clear, objective requirements for applicants that have not graduated from a board approved landscape architecture degree program.

Mandating the CLARB Record for reciprocal applications (in addition to the existing requirement for initial applications) benefits the Board, its DBR staff and applicants. The CLARB Record consolidates all licensure information into a single source, simplifying the process and reducing time for both applicants and staff. The CLARB Record provides reliable and verified evidence that the applicant meets the minimum standards for licensure. CLARB staff verify that the transcripts are official and that work experience was under registered professionals. While there are costs associated with creating and transmitting a CLARB Record, those costs are offset by efficiencies for both applicants and Board staff. Since 1/1/2025, 90% applicants for reciprocal licensure submitted a CLARB record voluntarily.

Overall, there may be a minimal cost increase to about 1-2 out-of-state applicants per year who need to obtain a CLARB Record to get a reciprocal LA registration in RI. But the other amendments do not have a financial impact upon applicants or registrants. The overall efficiencies and improved reliability of application materials outweigh these minimal costs.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.