

**American Society of Landscape Architects**  
**Summary of Legislation**  
**December 2012**

**As New Session Approaches, Legislators Announce Intentions to Introduce Bills**

Although there was no session in December, legislators, including the newly-elected ones, did send communications to their colleagues announcing their intentions to introduce new bills, or reintroduce bills from the previous session that did not make it to the Governor, in the upcoming 2013-2014 Legislative session. These memos, now sent electronically in the House and Senate to reduce costs and add transparency, give a short synopsis of the bill, sometimes a brief history, and encourage other members to sign on as co-sponsors. Below are some bills of interest that various legislators intend to introduce next year.

Sen. Richard Alloway - Licensed Professional Land Surveyors - Legal Right to Entry - reintroducing SB1461 of last legislative session. This legislation will provide licensed professional land surveyors with a legal right of entry.

**From:** [Representative Kate Harper](#)

**To:** All House members

**Subject:** Co-sponsorship of Legislation - Reintroduction of Former HB193 High Performance or "Green" Buildings

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce Former HB 193, legislation that would require the design, construction, and renovation of state-owned or leased buildings to comply with specified and high-performance building standards. This legislation would establish the High-Performance, State Buildings Standards Act as a freestanding act. Former HB 193 had passed in the House last Session.

**From:** [Representative Ron Miller](#)

**To:** All House members

**Subject:** ESTABLISH STATEWIDE PRIVATE WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS (former HB 1855)

I will be introducing new legislation that provides the statutory authority authorizing the Environmental quality Board to establish water well construction standards through the adoption of rules and regulations of the DEP that are generally consistent with the National Groundwater Association construction standards.

**From:** [Representative Dan Truitt](#)

**To:** All House members

**Subject:** Design Professionals Compensation (Previous HB 2365)

How would you like to work and not get paid for your labor? This is, unfortunately, a situation some professionals deal with every day.

A group of civil engineers who live and work in my district recently came to my district office to discuss the difficulties they encounter in collecting the fees for the services that they provide to land developers. In short, after they create a development plan and it is approved by a municipality, construction begins and the design professionals don't get paid for their work, or the payment is severely delayed. For an engineering firm, payroll is often most of their operating expenses.

Delayed payments and non-payments make it impossible for these small business owners to cover payroll, let alone grow their businesses and hire additional staff. Engineering firms deliver paper and digital files to their clients and are not permitted to file mechanic's liens on properties. Therefore, if the client does not pay, an engineering firm has little recourse beyond hiring a collection firm or attorney, at additional cost.

To deal with this, in the near future, I will introduce legislation to amend the Municipal Planning Code (MPC) to require that before a municipality can issue final approval for a development plan, it must receive confirmation from the design firm that the design firm has been properly compensated and the plans have been released for construction.

**Legislative Activity**

No bills of interest to ASLA were acted on by the General Assembly in December. The session ended officially at midnight on November 30. The 2013-14 session begins on January 1.

## Upcoming meetings of Interest

### 2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23
February	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
March	11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
May	6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

### 2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
March	11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

*Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at:*

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>