

The Boston Society of Architects

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) 9 September 2008

Date: 24 September 2008

In attendance were: George Bachrach, Esq., Rebecca Berry, Michael Davis (Co-Chair) Joseph Drown, Ernest A. Edwards, David Finney, Edward Gentry, David Johnson, Laura Wernick, John Nunnari, (Co-Chair), Debbie Ryan, Eric White, Donald Wohn.

1. **Legislative Update:** Mr. George Bachrach, Esq.

a. The Legislature is now in informal (post season) session. Only non-controversial bills will be considered.

b. **SB 2768 – Green Communities Act** (The Governor’s Energy Bill). There remains the concern for emissions reduction to 5% less than the original level of 20%. The current discussion concerns a Six Billion dollar Bond Bill spent over six years to implement emissions reduction. Unresolved issues include;

- What energy sources are included?
- What time line is applicable to each source?
- Applicable regulatory authority in each case.

This may be the scope of Legislative action.

c. **SB 2540 Global Warming Solutions Act.** This is a counter part to the Energy Bill and is working its way through the Legislature.

d. **SB 178 Act – Interior Designer’s Registration Act and HB 341 – Interior Designer’s Certification Act.** These bills remained in committee at the end of the session, amended to include some of the BSA Certification language. It is expected to be refiled in the next session.

e. **HB 4730 – Recognizing the Profession of Interior Designers to bid on State contracts.** This bill is subject to continuing discussion. Mr. Bachrach recommended against support.

f. **HB 4803 – Architects Emeritus Bill.** This Bill has no opposition. Nor does it have much support. It is expected to pass.

g. **HB 503 Rose Kennedy Greenway Act.** The funding for this bill has been cleared.

h. **HB 4965 – Establishing the Massachusetts Creative Economy Council.**

- No report was submitted.

i. **HB-4707 – Construction Reform Technical Corrections Package.** This bill was not discussed. It will be an on-going discussion.

j. **HB-4646 A Bill to make the Architectural Access Board (AAB) Regulations Equivalent to ADA Federal Law** by adding Office Occupancy to the current Regulations, primarily. This bill did not reach the floor of the Legislature for debate, and is lost. It was reported that the AAB will probably not refile for the next session. This is one more effort of several previous bills, which have failed to pass. It is understood that the AAB is turning its attention to updating the current regulations and do not plan to refile its bill for the next session. Mr. Nunnari volunteered to reach the AAB Director, Mr. Hopkins to offer BSA Assistance.

k. **Type IB Construction Bill.** This bill would require concrete products to be used for the construction of dormitories and nursing home buildings with sleeping rooms. This bill was not heard at before the end of the session, and is expected to be refiled for the next session.

2. **Massachusetts School Building Assistance Commission** discussions for a Model School Program.

a. Mr. Nummari reported on a meeting with the State Treasurer, Mr. Cahill.

b. It appears that the cost overrun for the Newton High School, with its possible impact, if any, on state reimbursement, is one source for Mr. Cahill's concern.

c. There also appears to be a good example of "model school application" in the planning of the new Wellesley High School to encourage this direction.

d. Mr. Cahill is proposing a limited application for Model Schools, to 8 schools, applying or State School Building financial assistance, in which features of a plan are based on pre-assembled modules, rather than a fully assembled school model.

e. The LAC agrees that cost control is essential, but disagrees with the process. It was agreed that the LAC would meet again with Mr. Cahill to demonstrate that his cost goals may be met, and that a full analysis by design professionals, with full knowledge the educational value of school design, in context with local school needs may be fully addressed, including, but not limited to;

- Restrictive available sites;
- Adaptability of an existing school to redesign.
- Operating cost, which may or may not be in pace with the economy.

- Need for examples where a Model School Program has been used.
- School costs are not the same for every community.

Mr. Metzger has agreed to assist in the preparation of data for the next meeting with Mr. Cahill.

3. The following outline served as a base for discussion in preparing for goals and strategies for the next Legislative Session.

- Access Board/Substantial Equivalency debate
- Promulgation of the 7th Edition – Beginning work on the 8th Edition – How does the LAC better engage with the regulatory process
- Environmental/Green Bills – What is on the horizon? What does the BSA support? Can we develop a new strategy to promote the Green Building Tax Credit?
- Construction Reform Technical Corrections – Is there a new/better strategy to get this moving?
- Others.

4. **Build Boston – Legislator of the year award.**

- No decision was made.

5. **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 14 October 2008, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the BSA 5th Floor Conference Room, 52 Broad Street, Boston, MA.

6. **End of Meeting Minutes**