

Arborist Licensure in Florida – Time for Action

While the novel Corona Virus may have changed how we conduct business, the Florida ISA Board, staff and some very active volunteer leaders spent the majority of 2020 working towards creating a framework for the licensure of the practice of Arboriculture in Florida. In addition to the significant work the committee of volunteer leaders conducted, we also tapped some industry experts to assist in the development background, data and safety statistics which underscore the necessity for licensure. You can read the proposed law and supporting documents [here](#).

Now the calendar has flipped to 2021 which means the beginning of the Florida Legislative Session is right around the corner. We need our **membership "grassroots"** to engage and get involved with the licensure effort. First, it would be significantly helpful for Florida ISA to know if any of our members have a relationship with current Florida Senate or House members. Having the benefit or existing relationships is critical especially during the craziness of a legislative session. In addition, given the reality of Corona Virus and the limitations of being in the Capitol, those personal relationships will be invaluable in our efforts.

Secondly, as we move through the Spring, it would be very helpful to know which of our members are willing to contact their legislators or any legislators seeking their support of our proposed legislation. To be clear, having an existing relationship with your Legislator isn't necessary to send an email or make a phone call but, it makes all the difference in the world for an elected official to hear from a business owner or employee or citizen on a specific piece of legislation.

Florida Chapter ISA has attempted licensure before and we recognize we have a steep hill to climb. However, without our members help and support the hill will quickly become insurmountable. We are at a crossroads within our industry and we have a choice to make. Are we going to take part in this process and grab some control of our destiny or are we going to continue to let others who do not necessarily understand our industry make decisions for us?

If you would like to participate all we ask is that you please contact the Chapter office at 941-342-0153 or neasey@floridaisa.org so we can track and coordinate our effort, as well as help you with talking points and guidance.