



Irrigation Association of New Jersey

September 2026

Dear Local Official:

As President of the Irrigation Association of New Jersey, I wanted to make you aware of legislation that became law on January 20, 2026, that impacts your municipality. P.L. 2025, Chapter 262 strengthens enforcement of our state's landscape irrigation contractor licensing law by increasing maximum penalties, **allowing "local enforcing agencies" to include municipal and county construction officials and subcode officials**, increasing civil administrative penalties and civil court penalties for violations to \$5,000 (first offense), \$10,000 (second offense) and \$15,000 (subsequent offenses) with each day of a continuing violation treated as a separate offense and allowing municipalities and counties who levy these fines where the violation occurred to retain seventy percent (70 percent) of the fine. The remaining thirty percent (30 percent) of the fine is to be used by the state to support the operations of the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board established pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1991, c.27 (C.45:5AA-5).

This new law was necessitated by the number of unlicensed irrigation contractors operating in the state, posing safety and liability risks to consumers. The Irrigation Association of New Jersey was proud to work with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, and the NJ Nursery & Landscape Association to garner bipartisan support in the Legislature.

A copy of P.L. 2025, Chapter 262, can be found at https://www.ianj.com/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=12701&pk_association_webpage=28856 or scan the QR code. I, along with the licensed members of the NJ Irrigation Association, look forward to working with your municipality, through your municipal construction code officials and subcode officials, to ensure the safety of our customers and your residents for years to come.

Should you have any questions regarding P.L. 2025, Chapter 2622, please do not hesitate to reach out to Erica Fearn, IANJ Executive Director, at efearn@ianj.com or by phone at 973-850-3366.

Sincerely,

Ron Cannella

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President, IANJ

