In October 1974, a meeting was held of soil scientists in Arkansas who were interested in improving professional recognition of soil classification. Participants represented a cross section of federal and state agencies, including universities, as well as private practicing soil classifiers. This group voted to organize into the Arkansas Society of Professional Soil Classifiers.

The Society voted to assess annual dues to enable it to function. It elected a five-member board of directors. The Board then appointed three ad hoc committees as follows: (1) a committee to develop a draft of a bill providing for the registration of soil classifiers and state regulation of private producing soil classifiers, (2) a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for the Society, and (3) a committee to generate support for the bill and identify legislators willing to introduce the bill. The president of the Board acted as coordinator for the committees.

During the winter, the Board and committees met as needed. The committees were dissolved as their functions were completed. Two members of the legislature, a senator and a representative, agreed to cosponsor and introduce the bill.

The bill, H.B. 281, was introduced and followed closely through the different legislative steps. Each member of the legislature was contacted at least once by supporters of the bill and influential persons who could be prompted to do so. These included a broad spectrum of people. The legislators were never allowed to overlook the classifiers bill, despite a heavy work load of pressing legislation sponsored by a new governor.

The success of this effort can be attributed to the strong local support that was created. It was truly a grass roots effort that involved many people. Countless hours of personal time were put into the information and awareness part of this effort. House Bill 281 passed both houses of the legislature by substantial margins. It was signed into law by the Governor in April and became “Act 460 of 1975.”

In June, the members of the Arkansas Society of Professional Soil Classifiers selected three soil classifiers and two nonsoil classifiers in accordance with provisions spelled out in the law. This list of five nominees has been submitted to the Governor to be considered for appointment to the Board which will implement Act 460. As of late July, the Governor has not made any appointments to the Board. As soon as the Board is appointed