



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Matt Claman

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Senate Bill 54

Sponsor Statement Ver. H (34-LS0044\H)

"An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design; relating to project costs for the construction, enlargement, or improvement of airports; extending the termination date of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; relating to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; establishing requirements for the practice of registered interior design; relating to the practice of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, and registered interior design; relating to the scope of the certification requirements for architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, and registered interior designers; relating to immunity for design professionals; relating to the cost of construction for recreation centers; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of landscape architectural and interior design services; relating to the cost of construction of safe water and hygienic sewage disposal facilities in villages; and providing for an effective date."

Senate Bill 54 will extend the statutory authorization for the Board of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS Board), add Registered Interior Designers to the board's jurisdiction, and make statutory changes requested by the board. This bill will allow the AELS Board to continue the important work of regulating design professionals in Alaska and add a qualified interior designer to the board.

The 2024 Sunset Audit of the AELS Board concluded that the board served the public's interest and recommended that it be extended by eight years. In this bill, the AELS Board is taking the opportunity to update outdated language based on their analysis since the last sunset audit.

Another important part of SB 54 is the opportunity for qualified interior designers to register with the AELS Board. Those wishing to practice registered interior design in buildings of public occupancy within a regulated scope of services impacting public health, safety, or welfare will now have a pathway to registration. SB 54 will allow designers practicing in public occupancy buildings to be qualified to do so, providing another measure of public safety protection and risk-mitigation for commercial buildings. It will increase the design professionals able to work independently within the commercial real estate industry.

Passage of SB 54 will allow Alaska to join other forward-looking states in providing a construction document stamp to allow registered interior designers to submit their own work for permitting. These states have recognized that increasing access to qualified design professionals in the design and construction marketplace means greater choice for consumers, cost savings, greater opportunity for small businesses, enhanced project teams, and improved completion schedules. These states have maintained public safety standards.

SB 54 will bring economic benefits by increasing professional employment opportunities, providing incentive to hire Alaskans for professional interior design, attracting high-quality design talent to the state, encouraging small business, and expanding consumer choices for qualified design professionals. SB 54 does not change the requirements or daily practice for any other professional in design or construction including architects, engineers, contractors, trades people, decorators, or residential designers.