



**Alaska  
Professional  
Design Council**

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AlaskaAPDC@gmail.com

**MEMBER SOCIETIES**

Alaska Society of  
Professional Engineers  
(ASPE)

Alaska Society of  
Professional Land  
Surveyors (ASPLS)

American Society of Civil  
Engineers, Alaska Section  
(ASCE)

American Society of  
Landscape Architects,  
Alaska Chapter (ASLA)

American Society of  
Interior Designers, Alaska  
Chapter (ASID)

Structural Engineers,  
Alaska (SEAAK)

March 20, 2026

**Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,**

**Re: Letter of Support for SB-246 / HB-314**

On behalf of the **Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC)** and the 1,150 licensed professionals we represent, I urge your support for SB-246 and the companion bill HB-314. Our members are committed to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare, and this legislation is essential to that mission. Importantly, SB-246 and HB-314 reflect thoughtful revisions and address several of the Governor's concerns about the previous version of this legislation, resulting in a stronger, more carefully tailored bill. The case for this bill rests on three key points:

- **Ensuring Regulatory Continuity:** The Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) serves as our foundation for professional oversight in Alaska. A nonpartisan 2024 Sunset Audit found the board serves the public interest and recommended an eight-year extension. This bill enacts this recommendation, ensuring licensure and public safety standards remain uninterrupted for all Alaskans.
- **Modernizing the Marketplace:** This bill authorizes the AELS Board to regulate registered interior designers, expanding the number of qualified Alaskans eligible to perform this work. Because many federal projects require registered designers, the current gap sends work out of state, costing Alaska jobs and revenue. This bill addresses this issue and strengthens competitiveness without adding new seats to the AELS Board.
- **Lowering Costs and Supporting Local Business:** Increasing the number of qualified Alaskan professionals reduces project design costs and allows local firms to pursue this work, while ensuring that professional fees stay in our state rather than being sent to out-of-state firms.

Passage of SB-246 or HB-314 is essential for Alaska's economic growth and public safety. By addressing prior concerns while maintaining strong professional oversight, this legislation strengthens the integrity of our registration system and supports Alaska's design community. We respectfully encourage your support and passage of SB-246 or HB-314. Thank you for your dedicated service to Alaska and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely

Alaska Professional Design Council  
John Pekar, P.E., President

April 21, 2026

House Finance Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

House Finance Secretary:

I would like place on the record the following four points in support of HB 314, Registration for Interior Design

- **The purpose of HB 314** is to protect public health, safety and welfare in code-regulated buildings whose primary use is public occupancy. It offers interior designers who become registered in the State of Alaska through meeting national qualification standards of education, experience, and certification the ability to submit plans for review without direct supervision of another design professional.
- **Registration removes restrictions** rather than adding them by allowing qualified interior designers to become registered and to practice to the full extent of their education, and experience. Enabling interior designers to be named the designer of record on interior DOD contracts and to lead tenant improvement project teams. It provides registered interior designers the ability to submit their own stamped, signed non-structural construction drawings and specifications for permitting. Currently in Alaska, if a stamp is required, an architect must assume full responsibility for the work to stamp the documents.
- **It is compatible** with other design professions practicing in Alaska. Architects are exempt and unaffected by this regulation; residential interior designers are exempt for single- family up to 4-plex structures as they are currently; interior designers who do not wish to become registered may continue to work, exactly as they do now, under the supervision of a registered or licensed professional. By adding registered interior designer to that list of professional supervision, HB 314 will allow a firm headed by a registered interior designer to operate independently, overseeing a team of registered and non-registered interior designers.
- **This legislation will be self-funded** through application and registration/renewal fees under the AELS registration board and is designed to integrate into AS 08.48, the statute governing regulation for architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects. This bill is good for our economy by encouraging in-migration rather than out-migration of design professionals to Alaska and by supporting small businesses, women owned businesses, and expanding consumer choice for qualified design professionals.

We look forward to seeing positive results from the Finance Committee hearing on HB 314 and hope that these points help to offer clarity for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary G Knopf, FASID, NCIDQ  
Principal ECI Alaska, Retired  
9401 Arlene Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
(907 240-8964

**Colin Maynard, PE, SE, F.NSPE**

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Anchorage, AK 99517  
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907-248-2831

To: House Finance Committee, Representatives Foster, Josephson, & Schrage, Co-Chairs  
From: Colin Maynard, PE, SE, F.NSPE  
Date: April 14, 2026  
Re: HB 314 – Arch, Eng, Surveyors; Reg Int Design

I understand that this bill will be heard by House Finance on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. I am writing to you as an individual and not as a member of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors. Given the time remaining in the session, the bill that leaves this committee (or passes the House) will most likely be the final version. I urge its passage with three minor tweaks that I have shared with the sponsor:

1) In Section 3, please keep five engineering seats, instead of reducing them to four, and delete one of the land surveyor seats to keep the total number of board members at 11. There are currently almost 5286 professional engineers in over fourteen disciplines. There are only 341 licensed land surveyors. The Board has managed acceptably with only one land surveyor for over a year now. To be transparent, as the bill stands now, I am in the engineering seat that currently will be removed from the Board on its effective date.

2) Also in Section 3, please delete the list of possible engineering disciplines for the seats, as it will probably end up as a limitation list rather than a starting point. Alternatively, add the disciplines with a larger number of registrants to the list. As of 2/16/26, the numbers of engineers in the fifteen various disciplines were:

Civil 2861  
Mechanical 771  
Electrical 725  
Structural 427  
Environmental 149  
Chemical 97  
Petroleum 77  
Fire Protection 73  
Controls 48  
Mining 33  
Remaining 5 disciplines 25

3) As to Section 28, item 15, the Department of Environmental Conservation has already adopted regulations which parallel this proposed statute language (despite currently not having the statutory authority to do so). Their language limits the certified installers to design "conventional onsite wastewater systems" and limits the size to "1500 gallons per day of domestic wastewater." I believe this statutory exemption should also include the terms "conventional" and "domestic" in the same locations.

I believe that the concerns the Governor raised in his veto letter regarding a similar bill last year have been addressed by the current bill. I urge passage of the bill with the modifications I noted above.

I am willing to discuss the bill or the suggested changes with any committee member who has questions.

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**From:** Ashley Killian <akillian@exploredesign.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:46 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Pass HB 314

Good afternoon House Finance,

I am an Anchorage resident and an interior designer. I am writing to express my support of HB 314 personally and as a representative of American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Alaska.

Please pass HB 314, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers.

Sincerely,

Ashley Killian  
FF&E Specialist, Interior Designer  
District 10 & District E, Oceanview

**Ashley Killian**, Allied ASID  
FF&E Specialist, Interior Designer  
T 907.563.8474 | M 907.306.6436



*(formerly MCG Explore Design)*

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**From:** Amber Harper <amberH@bdsak.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 4:48 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Pass HB 314

Hello,

I'm an Anchorage resident of 22 years and a Designer in the architectural community for the same. I writing to express my support of HB 314 personally and believe Interior Designers should be held to the same professional registration as those on the AELS Board.

Please pass HB 314, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers.

Sincerely,

Amber Harper  
Associate Designer at BDS Architects  
Resident of Downtown Anchorage, District 17

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**From:** Bobbie Scanio <bobbies@ecialaska.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 11:09 AM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Pass HB 314

I'm a resident of Anchorage and work as a NCIDQ-certified interior designer all over the state. I'm writing to share my support for HB 314, personally and with the support of the firm I work for. This is a smart, forward-thinking bill that helps maintain strong professional standards while promoting quality and accountability across our industry. Extending the AELS Board and establishing registration for interior designers are positive, practical steps that support both professionals and the communities we serve. It also aligns with how many other states approach these professions.

I'd truly appreciate your support in passing HB 314.

Thank you for all you do for our state—I'm grateful for your time and consideration.  
Warm regards,

**Bobbie Scanio**, NCIDQ, ASID, Interior Designer  
District 11  
(907) 205-4374 direct  
821 N. Street, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
[www.ecialaska.com](http://www.ecialaska.com)

Community Commitment | Shared Success & Responsibility | Fair & Ethical | Humility | Fun

*Nayna chin'an gheli ch'u Dena'inaq' Etnen'aaq' na'qenq'a teh hnuyididni'*  
We are very thankful and recognize our house is in the Dena'ina peoples homeland.  
Translation in Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina by Aaron Leggett

ECI

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**From:** Dana Nunn <dnunn@bettisworthnorth.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2026 6:34 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Pass HB 314

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a longtime Anchorage resident and NCIDQ-certified interior designer. I am writing to express my support of HB314 personally and as the designated representative for the American Society of Interior Designers Alaska Chapter and the International Interior Design Association Northern Pacific Chapter, of which Alaskan interior designers are members.

HB314 proposes reasonable regulation to protect public health, safety, and welfare by

- Extending the AELS board for 8 years as recommended by legislative audit,
- Establishing professional registration with stamp and seal privileges for interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination

Including interior design under the same regulatory body as other design professions in Alaska offers operational efficiency and regulatory consistency across disciplines.

What HB314 does for interior designers:

- Provides a seat on the AELS board for a registered interior designer, ensuring representation in regulation.
- Provides stamp and seal privileges for registered interior designers, allowing interior designers the opportunity to practice independently within the limited scope of work for which they are specifically qualified, and to take direct responsibility for their own work.
- Expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals and encourages small business.
- Encourages Alaskans earning interior design degrees Outside to return home.
- Ensures unrestrained access to market, enabling qualified design professionals to practice to the full extent of their education, experience, and examination.
- Provides lien rights and other protections already afforded to other registered design professionals.

What HB314 does NOT do:

- The bill does NOT restrict architects from providing the full breadth of their professional services, which includes interior design.
- The bill does NOT require clients, contractors, or architects to hire a registered interior designer.
- The bill does NOT require all interior designers to become registered.

Registration is VOLUNTARY. Designers may still practice as currently allowed by existing statute:

- Independently in residential/kitchen-bath market (single family to 4-plex, with height restrictions)
- Under the responsible charge of a registered design professional (currently an architect, but would expand to include responsible charge of registered interior designer)

HB314 has a fiscal note, to which you are surely attuned, but it is no-cost to the state: costs are borne by the registrants themselves.

[Please Pass HB314, Extend AELS Board; Register Interior Designers.](#) Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dana Nunn  
Anchorage, Alaska, district 15-H

**Dana Nunn, FASID, IIDA, NCIDQ, CCS, LEED AP, WELL AP, RID (TX)**  
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*NCIDQ #021025*

*Texas Registered Interior Designer #10787*

*ASID Alaska Advocacy Committee Chair*

*IIDA Northern Pacific chapter, Director of Alaska Advocacy*

*CIDA Site Visitor Volunteer for Interior Design Accreditation*