



April 28, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the Alaska House of Representatives  
Re: HB 314, Regulation of Interior Design

While the **American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Chapter** is not taking a position on HB 314, we are very concerned about misunderstandings that we heard during the April 23, 2026 House Finance Committee hearing. We are providing the following corrections and clarifications to the record to ensure that legislators have accurate information as they deliberate on the topic of interior design regulation.

1. Representative Bynum raised concerns about Sec. 3 that provides a seat on the AELS Board for an interior designer by reducing the number of engineers serving on the board from 5 to 4. We share that concern for two reasons:
  - **It is inappropriate for an interior designer to have a seat on the AELS Board because HB 314 is regulating them through a Title Act only.** Interior designers are not qualified to consider practice issues, including disciplinary actions, of the other professions that are regulated by the AELS Board as practice acts. The bill sponsor was not able to describe the distinction between Title and Practice Acts at the hearing, so we have summarized the differences here: A Title Act allows only a person with specific qualifications to use a protected title (e.g. Registered Interior Designer). A Practice Act authorizes and defines specific services (architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture) that can be done by qualified persons. HB 314 does not allow registered interior designers to do anything different than non-registered interior designers. The distinction of Title v. Practice is critical to the function of the AELS Board.
  - Additionally, HB 314 names only 5 disciplines of engineers as eligible to serve on the board that regulates over 5,200 engineers in 15 disciplines. The bill excludes 10 regulated engineering disciplines from serving.
2. Several House Finance Committee members stated that passage of HB 314 is required to allow Alaskan interior designers to compete for federal contracts. **This is not true.** AIA Alaska has addressed this multiple times over the past several years – see attached white paper. Interior designers already compete for federal contracts under their current qualifications, without regulation, because they have the NCIDQ credential. Only people with an active NCIDQ certificate (24 Alaskans currently) will be eligible for registration under HB 314. Representative Galvin referred to "HB 314 Additional Document - USACE Contract Opportunity 2.25.26" (see bill folder) in the hearing with a highlighted sentence in paragraph 3.A.1) stating, "The SID will be designed by a qualified interior designer in accordance with UFC 3-120-10 Interior Design." **The USACE contract solicitation does NOT require state registration of Interior Designers.** The qualifications are:

2-2 INTERIOR DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS. "For contracted interior design services, the interior designer or architect must also have attained National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) certification **OR** (*emphasis added*) state licensure, certification or registration..." See full text at [https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc\\_3\\_120\\_10\\_2018\\_c3.pdf](https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc_3_120_10_2018_c3.pdf)

Thank you, and please contact me if you have questions about this clarifying information.

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**Competing for federal contracts does NOT require professional registration of interior designers.** While some federal agency solicitations encourage or require minimum qualifications of interior designers, there is **NO requirement for state registration** (aka license to practice interior design).

The relevant document that establishes minimum qualifications is the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) system. It can be accessed online at [https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc\\_3\\_120\\_10\\_2018\\_c3.pdf](https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc_3_120_10_2018_c3.pdf)

#### **UFC SECTION 2-2 INTERIOR DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS.**

"Design and review must be performed by professional interior designers or architects with significant interior design experience. Qualification of designers is based on education, experience and examination. Interior designers or architects must have completed a program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) or equal accreditation program of academic training in interior design.

For contracted interior design services, the interior designer or architect must also have attained National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) certification **OR\*** state licensure, certification or registration and must not be affiliated with a furniture dealership, vendor or manufacturer." (\*emphasis in red font added)

The Alaskan interior designers that are promoting SB54 already have the NCIDQ certification that is required to work on federally funded military projects, and many interior designers have completed such projects as evidenced in their portfolios of work.

**Questions and discussions are welcome and encouraged!** Please contact **AIA Alaska, attention: Jessica Cederberg, Past President (907) 227-4943 or [contact@aiaalaska.org](mailto:contact@aiaalaska.org)**