



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS,
ENGINEERS, AND LAND SURVEYORS

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January 18, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Sumner, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Sent via email to House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Re: House Bill 159, “An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design”

Dear Chair Sumner,

I am writing to update the House Labor and Commerce Committee on actions by the Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) related to the regulation of interior design and interior designers. At our May 2023 meeting, AELS took the following actions:

1. The Board does not recommend adding the profession of interior design to 08.48 (AELS Board).
2. If SB 73 is advanced by the legislature, the AELS Board offers the following recommendations to CS-D:
 - Remove all references in the bill to AELS Board make up (Section 1, 2, 3 and 38).
 - Remove item (15) of Section 27.
 - In Section 30, delete (B) and revise to meet the following: *“review of drawings and specifications of interior spaces made by regulatory agencies.”*
 - In Section 37, revise to read as follows: *“Sec 37. TRANSITION: CURRENT INTERIOR DESIGNERS. Notwithstanding this Act, a person working as an interior designer before the effective date of this Act may continue to practice interior design in the state until 90 days after the effective date of regulations established in 12 AAC 36 or 2 years after the effective date of this Act, whichever comes first, at which time they must register if they wish to practice registered interior design as described in AS 08.48.341.”*

When House Bill 159, “An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design...” was introduced last April, it was a companion bill to Senate Bill 73. During the final weeks of last session, SB 73 was amended while no action was taken on HB 159. AELS has not yet reviewed HB 159 to recommend amendments, although some of the bullets above are the same in each bill.

The AELS Board has discussed the topic of interior design regulation at length for more than 3 years and held 2 special meetings on SB 73 during the 2023 legislative session. We have also raised concerns through written and verbal testimony during hearings on both SB73 and its predecessor bill from the 32nd Alaska Legislature, HB 61. While opinions of individual AELS Board members vary, the majority does not support adding the new profession of interior design to AS 08.48, the statute that authorizes the AELS Board. Discussion encouraged interior design to be regulated under a different framework if regulation is needed or desired.

We appreciate being allowed to engage in discussion about this legislation that, if approved, will add to the Board's responsibilities. Please contact me if you would like more detailed information.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fritz, Architect
AELS Board Chair