

From: Ashley Killian <akillian@exploredesign.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 11:35:57 AM
To: Rep. Jesse Sumner <Rep.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support HB 159!

Good morning Representative Sumner,

Please Support HB 159, Professional Registration for Interior Designers!

HB 159 proposes reasonable regulation to protect public health, safety, and welfare, by establishing professional registration for interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination, to practice independently, with stamp and seal privileges, all within a limited scope of work for which they are specifically trained and tested to do.

Interior designers of public-occupancy buildings directly impact public health, safety, and welfare in most aspects of their work. Interior designers who have earned an accredited university degree, completed hands-on training, and successfully passed the internationally-recognized 3-part NCIDQ certification exam are well-qualified to understand and execute the following public safety design responsibilities:

- Design of interior non-bearing wall and ceiling configurations: occupancy class determination, occupant load analysis, exit analysis including number and location of internal exits/exit access, path of travel distance and clear width, accessibility within suites and to exits
- Design and specification of interior materials, furnishings, and fixtures, which require knowledge of the following: accessibility and egress clearances, infection mitigation and control, combustibility, flame spread, smoke propagation, material toxicity, and slip resistance
- Development of interior technical submissions (i.e., plans, specifications, contract documents) in compliance with applicable code, regulation, and guideline requirements; fire detection/suppression device location coordination and coordination with other engineering professions to provide a complete construction package

HB 159 Registration for interior designers will:

- Be voluntary: non-registered interior designers may work in the residential market (single to 4-plex, with height restrictions) or under the direct supervision of a registered interior designer or a registered architect for commercial work (public occupancy).
- Be compatible with all design professions: architects will be exempt from this registration and architects that wish to provide interior design services may continue to do so.
- Be considered self-funded through the existing AELS Registration Board fee structure with a minimal increase per license holder.
- Provide a professional stamp for interior non-bearing construction document permitting, giving registered interior designers direct responsibility for their own work which currently must be supervised and over-stamped by a registered architect.

HB 159 Economic Benefits to Alaskans:

- Expands consumer choice of qualified design professionals; encourages small business.
- Increases professional employment and salary opportunities in Alaska, attracting high-quality design talent to the state and helping to reduce the professional workforce gap.
- Encourages hiring Alaskans instead of “outside experts” for professional interior design.
- Encourages Alaskans earning interior degrees Outside to return home.

Please support HB 159 Registration for Interior Designers to protect public safety, expand consumer choice, and bring economic benefits to Alaska.

Informational video: [What Does an Interior Designer Actually Do?](#)

Sincerely,

Ashley

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