



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS,
ENGINEERS, AND LAND SURVEYORS

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July 26, 2023

Senate Finance Committee
Senate.finance.committee@akleg.gov

RE: SB73 - An Act to Register Interior Designers

Dear Co-Chair Senators Stedman, Hoffman, and Olson:

I hope you are recharging yourselves during the legislative interim. At the close of the session in May, SB 73, an Act to Register Interior Designers, was reported out of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee and moved on to the Senate Finance Committee. The Alaska Board of Registration of Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) has been actively reviewing this bill and took action at its May 10, 2023, meeting that I would like to make you aware of.

The AELS Board acted on the following issues related to CS-D of SB73 and requested that these be forwarded immediately to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee to be considered at a hearing on the bill that occurred the same day. The bill was reported out without public testimony, so I am forwarding these actions to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

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 (Sections 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."*

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 do 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, and I hope you are having a great Alaskan Summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Fritz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Fritz, Architect

Chair – Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

C: Senator Matt Claman

Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov