
From: Charles Bettisworth <cbettisworth@bettisworthnorth.com>
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2024 1:54 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 159

Co-Chairs Representative Foster, Johnson, Edgmon, and members of the Committee.

In case I am unable to testify today, I want to reiterate my strong support for HB 159.

As previously testified, the Department of Defense is now requiring that Interior Designers be registered for DOD projects...

This requirement eliminates the opportunity for Alaska resident interior designers to propose on, or work on these projects.

Please provide a path for Alaska's interior designers to become registered and compete on these Dept of Defense projects.

Knowing you are all very busy in completing your work this session THANK YOU so much for considering HB 159.

Charles Bettisworth...

Charles Bettisworth | Founder, Senior Architect, sort of Retired

Main. 907. 456 . 5780 | **Cell.** 907.322.6529

204 Front Street, Suite 200 Fairbanks, AK 99701

BETTISWORTH
NORTH



From: Colin Maynard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2024 1:05 PM
To: House Finance
Cc: Rep. Jesse Sumner; Sarena Hackenmiller
Subject: AELS Letter of Concerns re: HB 159

House Finance Committee:

As I prepared for my first meeting back on the AELS Board and to testify before you on HB159, I read the letter from the AELS Board dated February 9th, 2024. I believe that there are some issues in that letter that need clarification. I am not writing on behalf of the Board. These are my opinions based on my eight years on the board a few years back and 42 years in the profession. I will use the same numbering system as in the letter:

1. The AELS Board has never voted to not recommend addition of Interior Designers to the Board. At their May 2023 meeting, there was a motion to recommend adding interior designers that failed on a 4-5 vote. It was pointed out to them by Sara Chambers and others at their February 2024 meeting that the motion failing was not the same as voting to not recommend addition of interior designers. They could have voted at that time on a motion to not recommend inclusion of interior designers, but they did not. Thus, the AELS Board has no adopted motion with a stance on interior designers.
2. There comments are regarding SB73, which is not in front of you. However, I will address the similar sections of HB159:
 - There is a need for a mechanical engineering seat on the Board. The current mechanical or electrical seat is not working well for the two largest groups regulated by the Board after civil engineers. There are more of these two types of engineers than either architects or land surveyors, who are each represented by two seats on the Board. For decades, there were both a mechanical engineer and electrical engineer on the Board. Then it was determined by someone in the Governor's office that neither were eligible for the 'other' engineering discipline seat. This situation needs to be rectified so that the review of these engineers is done by someone with knowledge of their discipline. As to the interior designer seat, there are landscape architect and mining engineering seats, despite their few numbers among the registrants, because they are different than other disciplines and someone with experience in that field is necessary for regulation adoption and applicant review. I recommend leaving the Board make-up changes as written.
 - I agree that paragraph 15 in Section 27 is redundant to paragraph 6 of Section 27. That was added to ameliorate concerns of residential kitchen and bath designers. However, its addition causes no harm.
 - Section 30 mimics the definitions of the other discipline definitions in statute. There are currently no individuals teaching advanced interior design courses in Alaska. Nor are there any individuals teaching advanced architecture classes, yet that is in the definition of that discipline in 08.48.341(13). If we ever expect our students to be trained in architecture or interior design here in Alaska, this definition should remain.
 - I believe that section 35 of HB159 is being addressed by the AELS Board's comments for Section 37 of SB73. Currently, interior designers have to get architects to stamp their drawings. If an interior designer does not wish to become registered, they can

continue that practice or find a registered interior designer to stamp their work after July 1, 2025.

Please let me know, if you have any questions about these issues.

Colin Maynard, PE, SE, F.NSPE (retired)

From: Jack Danberg <jdanberg@bettisworthnorth.com>
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2024 12:52 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Licensed Architect in support for House Bill 159 - Elevating Alaska's Professional Design Community

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Jack Danberg, and I bring to your attention my perspective as a licensed architect in Alaska, having also served as the Chair of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Northern Section from 2016 to 2018.

I am writing to express my firm endorsement of House Bill 159. In my professional capacity, I have come to understand the immense value that recognizing interior design as a licensed profession would bring to our state's design landscape. By formalizing this recognition, we have the opportunity to elevate our professional community, attract top-tier talent, and ensure a higher standard of care for our clients.

It is important to note that while I am a proud member of the AIA, the organization's membership in Alaska is voluntary, representing less than one-third of our registered architects. Therefore, the current opposition from a small segment of AIA Alaska members does not speak for the entire profession at large.

As both a member of AIA and a staunch supporter of HB 159, I believe it is crucial for our state to embrace this legislation now and during this legislative session for the betterment of our profession and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jack Danberg, AIA | Architect, Project Manager
Office Main. 907-456-5780 | **Direct Cell.** 954-249-3563
212 Front Street, Suite 200 Fairbanks, AK 99701

**BETTISWORTH
NORTH**



From: Michele Elfers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2024 9:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 159 Support

Hello,

Please pass HB 159. I am a licensed Landscape Architect in Alaska and know that the licensure of all our design professionals on a design team is critical for the safety of our public buildings in Alaska. It also will save the state money over time, as buildings designed to national industry safety and health standards reduce lawsuits and long term deferred maintenance needs.

Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Elfers

Juneau, AK

From: Susan A [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2024 8:44 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 159

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 159 (HB 159), also known as the Consumer Data Privacy Act. While I appreciate the intent behind the bill—to protect consumer privacy—I believe that certain provisions within it raise significant concerns for both businesses and consumers.

Industry Impact:

The advertising industry, which plays a crucial role in supporting online resources and services, opposes HB 159. The bill's provisions could hinder Alaskans' access to valuable ad-supported content.

Limiting advertising revenue may have unintended consequences, affecting the availability and quality of free online services. It is bills such as these that are starving our economic growth.

The bill's provisions could inadvertently hinder Alaskans' access to valuable ad-supported online content. By imposing prescriptive requirements, HB 159 risks stifling innovation and limiting consumer choice.

A robust ad-supported online ecosystem benefits both consumers and businesses. Restrictive regulations may disrupt this delicate balance, affecting the availability of free content and services.

Modeling After Outdated Standards:

HB 159 draws heavily from the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). However, it fails to consider the CCPA's subsequent amendments and clarifications.

A one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for Alaska, given its unique economic and social landscape.

Impact on Businesses and the Economy:

HB 159's provisions may harm businesses of all sizes. Compliance costs, administrative burdens, and prescriptive requirements can disproportionately affect smaller enterprises.

A healthy economy relies on innovation, entrepreneurship, and competition. Overregulation can stifle growth and job creation, undermining Alaska's economic prospects.

Prescriptive Requirements:

The bill imposes prescriptive requirements on businesses, potentially burdening them without providing commensurate benefits to consumers.

Striking the right balance between privacy protection and economic growth is essential.

Need for Further Study:

Rather than rushing to enact HB 159, I urge the legislature to conduct a thorough study of available approaches to data privacy.

Understanding the impact on both consumers and businesses will lead to more effective legislation.

In conclusion, while I support the goal of safeguarding consumer privacy, I believe that HB 159 requires further refinement. Let us work together to find a solution that protects Alaskans' rights without stifling innovation or harming our economy. These broad over reaches of government must stop before our economy fizzles out completely.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I hope you will take these concerns into account during the legislative process.

Thank you
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers

From: Tom <tom@livingstonstone.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2024 10:47 AM
To: House Finance; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Julie Coulombe; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz
Subject: House Bill 159

Members of House Finance; Edgmon, Foster, Johnson, Coulombe, Cronk, Stapp, Tomaszewski, Galvin, Hannah, Josephson, and Ortiz

No evidence has been presented by the supporters of HB 159 that it will provide any services that are not already provided by registered architects. The proposed legislation is unnecessary, confusing and would provide neither additional protection for the consumer nor enhancement of the public's safety. Current regulation of building design and engineering should not be changed; the existing scope of work defined in statute for architects and engineers should remain as is.

Further, should this legislation pass, I oppose the cost of any Interior Design regulation being passed on to existing AELS licensees. And, if adopted, any regulation fee structure shall be borne solely by the affected Interior Designer licensees.

I urge you to oppose the passage of House Bill 159.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Livingston

Thomas W. Livingston, FAIA
Principal

Livingston Slone Studio
@Nvision

1600 A Street Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Ryan Morse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 04, 2024 8:41 PM
To: House Finance; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Julie Coulombe; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz
Cc: Dianne Blumer
Subject: Letter of Opposition to HB159

From:
Ryan N Morse, AIA, NCARB
Ryan.N.Morse@gmail.com
907.297.8535
3/24/2024

To:
Members of the Alaska State Senate Finance Committee

Subject:
Opposition to HB159 = Protecting Alaskans' Access to Design Services

Dear Members of the Alaska State House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you today as a licensed architect in our great state, and a passionate advocate for fair access to design services for all. I speak not only on behalf of myself but also as a representative of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) of Alaska, where I have served in various leadership roles, including as the former president of the Alaska AIA chapter and currently as a member of the AIA National Strategic Council.

I urge you to join me in opposing HB159 in its current form. This bill, with its overly broad and ambiguous language, poses a significant threat to public safety and undermines the principles of fairness and inclusivity that we hold dear in Alaska.

At the heart of my opposition lies the fact that HB159 fails to establish clear boundaries for the practice of interior design. Its definition of "registered interior design" as "professional service or creative work in the design of interior spaces" lacks specificity and could potentially allow unqualified individuals to put the safety of our communities at risk.

HB159 needlessly restricts the practice of interior design, creating a system of haves and have-nots among our talented professionals. By favoring a select few with the qualifications to become registered interior designers, the bill effectively shuts out many other capable individuals who have been serving our communities with dedication and skill.

Let us not forget that HB159 represents an unprecedented departure from established norms within the design and construction industry. No other state in the country has enacted such onerous regulations on interior design, and for good reason. These regulations would not only be costly and complicated to implement but would also ultimately harm consumers by limiting their options and driving up costs.

Even the proposed regulatory board designated in HB159, the AELS Board, has voiced opposition to the inclusion of interior design under its purview. It is clear that there is widespread dissent within our own regulatory bodies, further underscoring the flawed nature of this legislation.

Furthermore, I must express my deep frustration and concern regarding the rushed manner in which HB159 is being pushed through committees without affording sufficient opportunity for public testimony and input from a diverse

range of industry experts. It is disheartening to witness the exclusion of voices that are integral to the fabric of our design and construction community.

As a state, we pride ourselves on transparency and inclusivity in our legislative process. However, the expedited progression of HB159 without adequate consultation with commercial contractors, real estate professionals, Non-NCIDQ professional interior designers, state and local level building plan review and code enforcement departments, developers, and building owners is a disservice to the very stakeholders who will be most impacted by its provisions.

It is essential that we engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration with all relevant parties to ensure that any legislation affecting our industry is well-informed, balanced, and reflective of the diverse perspectives within our community. Rushing through a bill of this magnitude without such input undermines the process and jeopardizes the interests of all Alaskans.

I implore you to reconsider the approach taken with HB159 and to prioritize inclusivity and transparency in the legislative process. Our community deserves nothing less than a thorough and thoughtful examination of this bill, with ample opportunity for input from all stakeholders. Stand with me and countless other Alaskans in rejecting HB159. Let us protect the safety of our communities and preserve the integrity of our design industry by opposing this misguided and divisive legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and for your commitment to serving the best interests of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ryan N Morse, AIA, NCARB
Alaska Strategic Counselor
American Institute of Architects

From: Cederberg, Jessica <Jessica.Cederberg@UICCS.com>
Sent: Friday, May 03, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson
Cc: Dianne Blumer; Rep. Andrew Gray; House Finance
Subject: OPPOSE HB 159 - Interior Design Bill
Attachments: AIA Alaska White Paper SB73 HB159 2.20.24.pdf; Map ID Statutes__October_2022.pdf

Hello Representative Josephson,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Chapter members met with you in February to discuss our concerns relating to HB 159 Registered Interior Designers.

We just learned that HB 159 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee on Monday morning, May 6. **We urge you to oppose this bill.**

For more than 5 years, we have worked hard with interior designers and SB73 (and previously HB 61) Sponsor, Senator Claman, to find a compromise. We are very disappointed that our efforts have been rejected and now, in the final days of the legislative session, HB 159 has been scheduled for hearing without AIA's concerns being addressed.

Our biggest issues with this bill are:

1. It is unnecessary – our current regulation of design professionals works well and interior designers are successfully working around the state, both independently and in collaboration with architects and engineers. They provide services to all types of clients and projects, including those that are federally funded (please see the attached AIA white paper on federal procurement). There is no evidence that HB159 is necessary for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the public – there exists no problem to solve. This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would not protect the consumer or increase public safety. In fact, it will limit consumer choices in selecting interior designers because HB159 restricts the practice to only those persons who have advanced education and experience and have passed an examination. There are fewer than 21 people in Alaska who hold this credential.

No other state has a comparably onerous law in place, and some jurisdictions have repealed interior design laws in recent years. There are only 2 states that use the “Practice Act” regulatory framework that is proposed in HB 159, and these were enacted in the 1980’s. All of the other 26 states that regulate interior design are structured as “Title Acts,” **which the AIA would not oppose** (See attached ID Statutes Map).

2. The vast majority of services performed by interior designers are not related to the health and safety of the public. While they have many excellent skills that add value to design, interior design does not rise to the responsibility and liability to the public that is undertaken by other design professions that are regulated by the State. Interior design does not need to complicate the existing regulated professions in statute 08.48 (AELS Board). In fact, many sections of HB 159 conflict with legislation passed last year (SB 126) to update AELS Board statutes (08.48).

The AELS Board voted against including interior design in its responsibilities, and also recommended changes to the bill if the legislature wanted to pursue interior design regulation, but none of the Board’s concerns have been addressed.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Regards,
Jessica

JESSICA CEDERBERG, AIA, NCARB | ARCHITECTURE MANAGER



UMIAQ Design, LLC

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Date: May 3, 2024

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Neal Foster
Representative DeLena Johnson
Representative Julie Coulombe
Representative Mike Cronk
Representative Will Stapp
Representative Frank Tomaszewski
Representative Alyse Galvin
Representative Sara Hannan
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Dan Ortiz

Re: Oppose HB159: REGISTRATION OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

As an AIA Alaska Member and a Registered Architect in the State of Alaska for the past 16 years, I am writing to ask that you **do not support** the passage of HB159: An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design. Like many Alaskan members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), as well as our colleagues in engineering and construction, I am **opposed** to HB159 because it is unnecessary, redundant, and most importantly, may negatively affect public health, safety, and welfare for the following reasons:

- **Overlap of services:** The definition of interior design is too far-reaching, and it creates an overlap of services rendered by engineers and architects who already practice these services, causing confusion for the public and unnecessary costs for State enforcement.
- **Liability and responsibility:** It will create further confusion for the public and for construction contractors with regards to liability and responsibility because of the lack of understanding of what interior design is and is not.
- **Unqualified persons:** It injects potentially unqualified persons into a structured regulatory framework wherein the State will risk critical health and safety issues to be determined by unqualified persons. State licensed architects and engineers have significantly more rigorous education, training, and testing than interior designers.

- **Does not increase public safety:** The proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would not protect the consumer or increase public safety. It will restrict people from practicing interior design as they are currently free to do; this is a special interest bill that benefits a very small number of Alaskans.

There is no evidence presented that HB159 will solve a problem that at this time does not exist. Based on the above comments I urge you to **OPPOSE** the passage of House Bill 159.

Respectfully,

Ramona Schimscheimer

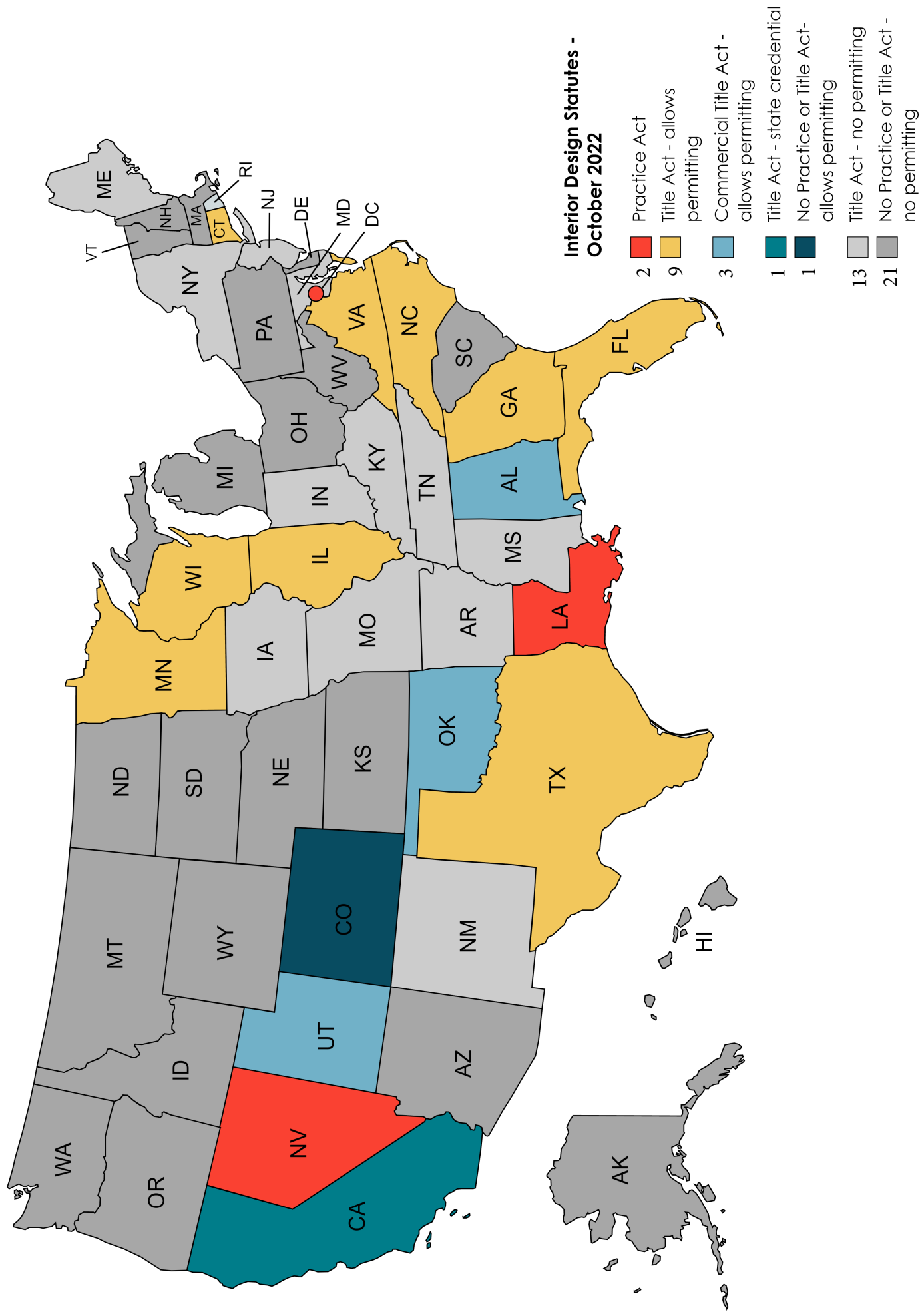
Ramona Schimscheimer, AIA, PMP

Principal Architect | Project Manager

Email: rschimscheimer@asrcenergy.com



Copy: AIA Alaska Lobbyist: Diane Blumer
 AIA Alaska President: Jessica Cederberg, AIA, NCARB





WHITE PAPER: SB73 & HB159
RE: FEDERAL PROCUREMENT
OF INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES
Issued: February 20, 2024

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 Alaskan interior designers that are promoting SB73 and HB159 already have the credentials to work on federally funded military projects, and many have such projects in their portfolios.

“The Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) are a joint effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. UFGS are for use in specifying construction for the military services. The UFC applies to all agencies of the Department of Defense (DoD) and their contractors that prepare Structural Interior Design (SID) and Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) design packages for all DoD-owned facilities. These criteria are applicable in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, United States (U.S.) territories and possessions.”

See complete UFGS at https://www.wbdg.org/FFC/DOD/UFC/ufc_3_120_10_2018_c2.pdf

Below are excerpts from the UFGS that state the qualifications of interior designers who wish to compete for applicable federal contracts. Also included below are the elements of building design that are typically practiced by interior designers.

What are the minimum interior designer qualifications to compete for contracts?

UFGS 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.”

What is Structural Interior Design (SID)? Note that SID does not, by definition below, include any life safety or structural system aspects of the building (such services are typically provided by architects and engineers).

UFGS SECTION 1-5.1 Structural Interior Design (SID).

“The SID includes building-related design elements and components generally part of the building itself, such as walls, ceilings, floor coverings, primary window treatments (blinds, shades and drapery hardware), signage and built-in casework... In addition, the interior designer must determine the desired interior finish materials based on the respective aesthetic, durability and maintenance qualities, and characteristics applicable to each space within the facility.”

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

May 3, 2024

TO: Representative Dan Ortiz

Re: **Opposition to HB 159** An act to register Interior Designers and Interior Design

Dear Dan,

You may recall our recent telephone discussion on my opposition to HB 159, regulation of interior design. This bill was first introduced in 2021 as HB 61 during that session. I have been an active member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for over thirty years and AIA Alaska has continued to oppose the regulation of interior design and we just learned that HB 159 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee on Monday morning, May 9. **We urge you to oppose this bill.**

For more than 5 years, AIA Alaska has worked hard with interior designers and SB73 (and previously HB 61) Sponsor, Senator Claman, to find a compromise. We are very disappointed that our efforts have been rejected and now, in the final days of the legislative session, HB 159 has been scheduled for hearing without AIA's concerns being addressed.

Our biggest issues with this bill are:

1. It is unnecessary – our current regulation of design professionals works well and interior designers are successfully working around the state, both independently and in collaboration with architects and engineers. They provide services to all types of clients and projects, including those that are federally funded (please see the attached AIA white paper on federal procurement). Alaska has an excellent record of building safety and there are no examples of actual or perceived threats to public health, safety, or welfare due to the current lack of interior design regulation.

Consumers have not requested this legislation. Rather, it has been promoted by a handful of interior designers who will financially benefit if it passes. In 2023, only 21 Alaskans held the credential that is required to become a registered interior designer under this bill. No other state has a comparably onerous law in place, and some jurisdictions have repealed interior design laws in recent years. There are only 2 states

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that use the "Practice Act" regulatory framework that is proposed in HB 159, and these were enacted in the 1980's. All of the other 26 states that regulate interior design are structured as "Title Acts," **which the AIA would not oppose** (See attached map).

2. The vast majority of services performed by interior designers are not related to the health and safety of the public. While they have many excellent skills that add value to design, interior design does not rise to the responsibility and liability to the public that is undertaken by other design professions that are regulated by the State. Interior design does not need to complicate the existing regulated professions in statute 08.48 (AELS Board). In fact, many sections of HB 159 conflict with legislation passed last year (SB 126) to update AELS Board statutes (08.48). The AELS Board voted against including interior design in its responsibilities, and also recommended changes to the bill if the legislature wanted to pursue interior design regulation, but none of the Board's concerns have been addressed.

Carrying out HB 159 will be expensive and complicated to implement, increase costs to consumers, increase licensing fees to existing registrants, reduce access to basic design services statewide, and negatively impact a large number of people who currently perform interior design services.

The AIA's lobbyist, Dianne Blumer, is an excellent resource for you, and our AIA Alaska President, Jessica Cederberg has been actively involved in testimony and meetings to articulate our concerns and propose compromises. Please let me know if you would like to have further discussion. We know that it is a super busy time in the legislature, and we really appreciate everything you do to keep our state healthy and vibrant.

Based on the above comments I urge you to OPPOSE House Bill 159.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Timothy B. Whiteley, AIA

cc: AIA Alaska Lobbyist dianneblumer@gmail.com

Date: May 3, 2024

Email: house.finance@akleg.gov
Representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov
Representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov
Representative.delena.johnson@akleg.gov
Representative.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov
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Representative.andy.josephson@akleg.gov
Representative.dan.ortiz@akleg.gov
dianneblumer@gmail.com

Re: **Opposition to HB 159** REGISTER INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Dear House Labor and Commerce Members

As an Alaska Resident who works in the custom home industry the past 50 years, I am writing to ask that you do not support the passage of HB 159: An Act relating to registered interior designers and interior design.

- There is no evidence presented that HB 159 will solve a problem that at this time does not exist.
- This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing and would **not protect the consumer or increase public safety**.
- I do not believe that current regulation of building design and engineering should be changed, the existing restricted scope of work for architects and engineers should remain as they are.
- I oppose the cost of Interior Design regulation being passed on to existing licensees. I support a regulation fee structure that is borne by the affected Interior Design licensees.

Based on the above comments I urge you to **OPPOSE** the passage of House Bill 159.

Respectfully yours,

N. Claiborne Porter, Jr. AIA, NCARB

5/6/2024

RE: Support for 2024 AK HB 159

Dear House Finance Committee members,

On behalf of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) I write to you today in support of House Bill 159, which would protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public if passed.

CIDQ is the premiere certifying organization for interior design professionals. With a membership comprised of state regulatory boards from across the United States and Canada, our organization takes seriously the responsibility to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, a responsibility our certified interior designers share. Our organization develops and administers the three-part NCIDQ Examination, the national interior design certification examination that assesses the competency of candidates to protect the public through the practice of interior design. Like the architecture profession, NCIDQ-Certified Interior Designers are required to undergo formal postsecondary education and thousands of hours of paid, supervised experience to sit for the examination, which tests interior designers' knowledge of core competencies required for professional practice in the industry. This combination of education, experience, and examination helps ensure minimal competency of our certificate holders in the distinct practice of interior design, most of which practice in commercial, code-based environments like office buildings, hotels, hospitals, schools, etc.

In December 2021, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the national organization that administers the exam for architect licensure of which the Alaska AELS Board is a member, and CIDQ issued a [joint report](#) that assesses areas of correlation and distinction between the knowledge, skills, and tasks required for competency in the fields of architecture and interior design. This collaborative effort identified several areas of definite similarity between the professions and their respective examinations, as well as areas where there is some similarity or no similarity, and consequently [found that](#): ***“architecture and interior design are unique and distinct disciplines that both have an important role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public within the built environment.”***

As stated by the [Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation](#): *“The unregulated practice of interior design presents at least a moderate risk of public harm. The involvement of other regulated design professionals or building codes and inspections may not be sufficient to mitigate potential hazards to public health, safety, and welfare.”* In short, legal recognition of interior designers as design professionals is necessary to protect the public from incompetent practice, which the exam cannot do on its own without state enforcement and disciplinary functions. In addition to the importance of protecting public safety, this bill is necessary to allow qualified professionals to practice to the full extent of their capabilities as demonstrated by education, experience, and examination.

Reasonable regulation of interior designers utilizing the NCIDQ Exam provides a means of offering the state and the public assurance that interior designers are qualified to practice in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public in Alaskan public spaces. CIDQ thanks the committee for considering this legislation and we ask for a favorable report on this bill. Thank you, and I'm happy to be a resource to the committee to answer questions about the NCIDQ exam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Barusch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Barusch
Council for Interior Design Qualification