



April 29, 2025

Dear House Committee Chairs and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on our current position on SB54. AIA Alaska worked with bill sponsor Senator Claman and NCIDQ interior designers to address our primary concerns that were part of previously proposed interior design legislation. We appreciate the willingness to compromise by offering a Title Act rather than the Practice Act bills that were proposed in previous sessions. **Establishing a Title Act is the essential condition for AIA Alaska to remove opposition and remain neutral to interior design regulation. AIA Alaska does not support interior design registration through a Practice Act.**

Senator Claman introduced SB 54 as a Title Act, with language to allow permitting privileges for interior designers through the use of a stamp (seal). AIA Alaska appreciates the clarity provided by Legislative Counsel, Conran Gunther in his January 15, 2025 memo that accompanied the draft bill. He stated, "A title act does not require a license to practice an occupation, rather it establishes an optional license that allows a person to use a protected title when practicing that occupation." He further stated, "[This bill draft] does not prohibit the practice of interior design by a person who does not use the title 'registered interior designer.'" This is articulated in Sec. 13 of the bill.

We understand that changes to SB 54 have occurred in the Senate, and we have listened to hearings to ensure that SB54 remains a Title Act bill. If any revisions occur to this bill that change the intent of the bill from being a Title Act with permitting privileges, AIA Alaska will reevaluate our position.

During Senate committee testimonies and during the recent Senate Floor presentation of SB54, we heard incorrect references to the need for this legislation because of federal contracting requirements. It was stated that interior designers must be registered to participate in federal (eg. Dept. of Defense) proposals, and that SB54 would resolve a misunderstanding that interior designers need to be hired from other states. This is not true. Registration is one way to meet minimum qualifications. Another is to hold the NCIDQ certification, which is already held by the Alaskan interior designers who support SB54. While this point does not affect the nature of this bill as a Title Act or Practice Act, we felt it was essential to correct the record as legislators consider the bill holistically. I have attached AIA Alaska's White Paper on this topic for more information.

Again, thank you for your ongoing attention to this matter and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Cederberg".

Jessica Cederberg, AIA, NCARB
2025 AIA Alaska Past President

Cc: Senator Matt Claman
Dianne Blumer



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_c2.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.”

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.