



Alaska State Legislature

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House Bill 61

Sponsor Statement — Version B

“An Act relating to commercial interior designers and commercial interior design; establishing registration and other requirements for the practice of professional commercial interior design; relating to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors; relating to liens for labor or materials furnished; relating to the procurement of commercial interior design services; and providing for an effective date.”

HB 61 establishes registration for educated, qualified interior designers wishing to practice commercial interior design in buildings of public occupancy within a regulated scope of services impacting public safety. This bill will ensure designers practicing in public-occupancy buildings are qualified to do so, providing another measure of public safety protection and risk-mitigation for commercial buildings.

HB 61 describes what commercial interior designers will be able to produce and stamp independent of an architect or engineer. The practice of commercial interior design described in HB 61 is specific and limited to nonstructural/nonloadbearing interior design elements; interior planning for occupant loads and exiting; and specification of code-compliant interior finishes, furnishings, and fixtures. The scope of commercial interior design practice described in HB 61 is well within the competencies of interior designers as determined by their education, training, and examination.

HB 61 is intended to be cost neutral to the State, self-funded within the AELS Registration Board through application, registration, and renewal fees, as are the other professional design disciplines. HB 61 also renames the AELS Registration Board, moving to a shorter title.

Passage of HB 61 will allow Alaska to join other forward-looking states in providing a construction document stamp to allow commercial interior designers to submit their own work for permit. These states have recognized that increasing access to qualified design professionals in the design and construction marketplace means greater choice for consumers, cost savings, greater opportunity for small businesses, enhanced project teams, and improve completion schedules. These states have maintained public safety standards.

HB 61 will bring economic benefits by increasing professional employment opportunities, providing incentive to hire Alaskans for professional interior design, attracting high-quality design talent to the state, encouraging small business and unrestrained trade, and expanding consumer choices for qualified design professionals. HB 61 does not change the requirements or daily practice for any other professional in design or construction including architects, engineers, contractors, trades people, decorators, or residential designers.