



Alaska State Legislature

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Senate Bill 73 Sponsor Statement — Version S

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

Senate Bill 73 establishes registration for educated and qualified interior designers wishing to practice registered interior design in buildings of public occupancy within a regulated scope of services impacting public safety. SB 73 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. It will increase the design professionals able to work independently within the commercial real estate industry.

SB 73 describes what registered interior designers will be able to produce and stamp independent of an architect or engineer. The practice of registered interior design described in SB 73 is specific and limited to: nonstructural/nonloadbearing interior design elements; interior planning for occupant capacities and exiting; and specification of code-compliant interior finishes, furnishings, and fixtures. The scope of practice described in SB 73 is well within the competencies of interior designers as determined by their education, training, and examination.

SB 73 is intended to be cost neutral to Alaska and self-funded within the AELS Registration Board through application, registration, and renewal fees for registered interior designers—similar to the other professional design disciplines. SB 73 also renames the AELS Registration Board to the State Board of Design Professionals.

Passage of SB 73 will allow Alaska to join other forward-looking states in providing a construction document stamp to allow registered 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 improved completion schedules. These states have maintained public safety standards.

SB 73 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. SB 73 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.