

REPRESENTATIVE
JESSE SUMNER
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

Rep.Jesse.Sumner@akleg.gov



SESSION
State Capitol
120 E. 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Tel: (907) 465-4833
Toll Free: (800) 782-4833

INTERIM
600 E. Railroad Ave., Suite 1
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 373-6285

Sponsor Statement

HB 159: Register Interior Designers

House Bill 159 adds interior designers as a registered profession of the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS), as well as changes the name of the Board to the “Board of Registration for Design Professionals” to encompass all regulated design professions.

The professions listed in the name of the Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors have been regulated since statehood, and the Board has since added Landscape Architects and additional nationally recognized disciplines of engineering. HB 159 would add interior design as a registered profession and establish statutory authority for the Board to regulate these professionals. Registered interior designers shall be those who have met the requirements in accepted education, experience and examination and who wish to practice interior design in buildings of public occupancy under a regulated scope of services impacting public safety. HB 159 aims to enhance public safety by ensuring qualified professionals address critical design aspects within the scope of their regulated services, thereby mitigating potential risks.

HB 159 describes the work that registered interior designers will be able to produce without an architect or engineer, allowing them to stamp documents and submit their own work for permit. The practice of registered interior design described in HB 159 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.

HB 159 intends to be cost-neutral to Alaska as the AELS Registration Board self-funds through application, registration, and renewal fees from design professionals.

HB 159 will bring economic benefits by increasing professional employment opportunities, providing incentive to hire Alaskans for professional interior design, attracting and retaining high-quality design talent to the state, encouraging small business and unrestrained trade, providing autonomy for registered interior designers to practice within the regulated scope of work, and expanding consumer choices for qualified design professionals. HB 159 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.