
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6194

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Commerce & Trade (originally sponsored by Senators Mulliken and Keiser)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the title of interior design; adding
2 a new chapter to Title 18 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In order to safeguard human health, safety,
5 and property, and to promote public welfare, any person in either a
6 public or private capacity using the title of interior designer shall
7 be required to submit evidence that he or she is qualified under the
8 provisions of section 3 of this act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** As used in this chapter, unless the context
10 otherwise requires:

11 (1) "Department" means the department of licensing.

12 (2) "Interior design" means client consultation and the preparation
13 and administration of design documents, including design studies,
14 drawings, schedules, specifications, and contracts relating to the
15 nonstructural and nonseismic interior elements of a building or
16 structure. "Nonstructural and nonseismic interior elements" includes
17 but is not limited to ceilings and partition systems. "Interior
18 design" includes but is not limited to preparation of working drawings

1 and specifications for nonload bearing interior construction, reflected
2 ceiling plans, detailing, materials, finishes, space planning,
3 furnishing, fixtures, and equipment, in compliance with universal
4 accessibility and guidelines and all applicable codes.

5 (3) "Interior designer" means a person registered under this
6 chapter who is a registered design professional qualified by education,
7 experience, and examination to affect the function, safety, and quality
8 of interior spaces.

9 (4) "Reflected ceiling plan" means a ceiling design drawing that
10 includes the locations of lighting fixtures and specifications of
11 ceiling materials, finishes, or other ceiling elements.

12 (5) "Registration" means the certificate of registration issued by
13 the department to an interior designer under this chapter.

14 (6) "Space planning" means the analysis of spatial and occupancy
15 requirements, including but not limited to preliminary space, final
16 space, furnishing, fixture, and equipment plans.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) An applicant may qualify for
18 registration as an interior designer if the applicant pays any
19 applicable fee established by the department and shows to the
20 satisfaction of the department that the applicant:

21 (a)(i) Has a current certificate number issued by the national
22 council for interior design qualification; and

23 (ii) Has six years combined work experience and formal education in
24 interior design. At a minimum, there must be two years of formal
25 education in interior design; or

26 (b) Provides the department, by July 1, 2007, with proof of fifteen
27 years of work experience as an interior designer and either two years
28 of formal education in interior design or a current certificate number
29 issued by the national council for interior design qualification prior
30 to the effective date of this section.

31 (2) The department may also grant registration by reciprocity. An
32 applicant applying to the department for registration by reciprocity
33 must furnish satisfactory evidence that the applicant meets both of the
34 following requirements:

35 (a) Holds a valid registration or license issued by another
36 registration authority recognized by the department, where the

1 qualifications for registration or licensure are substantially
2 equivalent to those required by this chapter on the date of original
3 registration or licensure with the other registration authority; and

4 (b) Holds a current certificate number issued by the national
5 council for interior design qualification.

6 (3) The department must develop by rule, in consultation with
7 professional organizations representing interior design, the necessary
8 forms to use in verifying education and work experience for
9 registration.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department must grant a certificate of
11 registration to an applicant who meets the requirements of section 3 of
12 this act beginning July 1, 2005.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The renewal date for certificates of
14 registration shall be set by the director in accordance with RCW
15 43.24.086. An interior designer who fails to pay the renewal fee
16 within thirty days of the due date shall pay all delinquent fees plus
17 a penalty fee equal to one-third of the renewal fee. An interior
18 designer who fails to pay a renewal fee for a period of five years may
19 be reinstated under such circumstances as the department determines.
20 The renewal and penalty fees and the frequency of renewal assessment
21 must be adopted by the department by rule.

22 (2) An interior designer in good standing may withdraw from the
23 practice of interior design by giving written notice to the department,
24 and may within five years thereafter resume active practice upon
25 payment of the then-current renewal fee. An interior designer may be
26 reinstated after a withdrawal of more than five years under such
27 circumstances as the department determines by rule.

28 (3) An interior designer registered under this chapter must
29 complete one continuing education unit, equal to ten hours of
30 continuing education instruction, every two years. The department, in
31 consultation with professional organizations representing interior
32 design, must develop a form to verify continuing education.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The director may issue a new certificate of
34 registration to replace a lost, destroyed, or mutilated certificate.

1 The director must charge a fee as determined by RCW 43.24.086 for the
2 issuance of the new certificate.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Beginning July 1, 2007, a person may not use
4 the title "interior designer" in this state or any other title,
5 designation, sign, card, or device indicating that the person is an
6 interior designer unless he or she is registered under the provisions
7 of this chapter. Every holder of a certificate of registration under
8 this chapter must display it in a conspicuous place in the holder's
9 principal office, place of business, or employment. No corporation,
10 firm, partnership, or association may be granted a certificate of
11 registration under this chapter. This chapter does not prevent any
12 individual from offering or providing interior design services provided
13 they do not use the title "interior designer."

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) A design document issued by an interior
15 designer registered under this chapter must be signed, sealed, and
16 dated by him or her. An interior designer must include the designer's
17 registration number on all design documents issued by the interior
18 designer when filed with public authorities. An interior designer must
19 personally prepare or supervise the preparation of any design document
20 that is signed and sealed by the interior designer or that lists the
21 interior designer's registration number.

22 (2) The department, in consultation with professional organizations
23 representing interior design, must develop by rule the seal to be used
24 by interior designers registered by the state.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The uniform regulation of business and
26 professions act, chapter 18.235 RCW, governs unlicensed practice, the
27 issuance and denial of licenses, and the discipline of licensees under
28 this chapter.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) A person who violates a provision of
30 this chapter or a rule adopted under it is guilty of a misdemeanor and
31 may also be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed one
32 thousand dollars for each offense.

33 (2) Any public officer may initiate an action before the department
34 to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

1 (3) The department may apply for relief by injunction without bond
2 to restrain a person from committing any act that is prohibited by this
3 chapter. In such proceedings, it is not necessary to allege or prove
4 either that an adequate remedy at law does not exist or that
5 substantial irreparable damage would result from the continued
6 violation thereof. The department is not liable for its actions in any
7 such proceeding or in any other proceeding instituted by the department
8 under this chapter. The department in any proper case shall cause
9 prosecution to be instituted in any county or counties where any
10 violation of this chapter occurs, and shall aid the prosecution of the
11 violator.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This chapter does not affect or prevent the
13 practice of architecture under chapter 18.08 RCW or engineering under
14 chapter 18.43 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act may be known and cited as the
16 interior design professionals act of 2004.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** Sections 1 through 12 of this act
18 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

--- END ---