
HOUSE BILL 3223

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Williams, Hunt, and Dickerson

Read first time 01/24/08. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the practice of interior design; adding a new
2 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.** The purpose of this act is to safeguard
5 public health and life safety, to promote the public welfare by
6 improving the quality of human environmental design, and to limit the
7 practice of interior design to persons having specific design
8 education, experience, and examination.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
10 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Board" means the Washington state board of interior design as
12 established by the department of licensing.

13 (2) "Building shell" means the architecture of the existing
14 building, including the framework, the perimeter or exterior walls, the
15 building core and columns, and other structural, load-bearing elements
16 of the building.

17 (3) "Construction documents" mean the detailed working drawings
18 that define the work to be constructed. This may include partition

1 plans, power and communication plans, reflected ceiling plans, material
2 and finishes plans, and furniture layout plans, as well as elevations,
3 sections, and details, along with the drawings of associated
4 consultants.

5 (4) "Contract administration" means the set of services which may
6 include: Developing and monitoring schedules and construction costs;
7 ensuring construction is completed in conformance with contracts and
8 design intent; liaison with contractors and consultants throughout the
9 course of construction; reviewing shop drawings and submissions from
10 the contractor; observing and commenting on construction progress;
11 monitoring move in and furniture installation; and conducting required
12 postoccupancy evaluations.

13 (5) "Contract documents" means the set of documents that form a
14 part of the legal contract for services between two or more parties.
15 These typically include detailed instructions to the contractor, tender
16 forms, construction documents and specifications.

17 (6) "Diversified and appropriate interior design experience"
18 relates to the skills and tasks of a registered interior designer.

19 (7)(a) "Interior Design" means designs, consultations, studies,
20 drawings, specifications, and the contract administration of design
21 construction contracts relating to nonstructural interior elements of
22 a building or structure. "Interior design" includes, but is not
23 limited to, space planning, finishes, furnishings, and the design for
24 fabrication of nonstructural or nonseismic elements within and
25 surrounding interior spaces of a building, and a scope of services
26 performed by a professional design practitioner, qualified by means of
27 education, experience, and examination, to protect and enhance the
28 life, health, safety, and welfare of the public. These services may
29 include any or all of the following tasks:

30 (i) Research and analysis of the client's goals and requirements,
31 and development of documents, drawings, and diagrams that outline those
32 needs;

33 (ii) Formulation of preliminary space plans and two and three-
34 dimensional design concept studies and sketches that integrate the
35 client's program needs and are based on knowledge of the principles of
36 interior design and theories of human behavior;

37 (iii) Confirmation that preliminary space plans and design concepts

1 are safe, functional, aesthetically appropriate, and meet all public
2 health, safety, and welfare requirements, including code,
3 accessibility, environmental, and sustainability guidelines.

4 (b) "Interior design" specifically excludes the design of or the
5 responsibility for architectural and engineering work, except for
6 specifications for fixtures and their location with interior spaces.
7 "Interior Design" also specifically excludes construction of
8 structural, mechanical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning,
9 ventilation, electrical or vertical transportation systems, fire-rated
10 vertical shafts in multistory structures, fire-related protection of
11 structural elements, smoke evacuations and compartmentalization,
12 sprinkler systems, and emergency alarm systems.

13 (8) "License" means a certificate granted by the Washington state
14 board of licensing as established.

15 (9) "Maintenance" means the ability of a product or material to be
16 kept to its proper condition and the work required to sustain that
17 condition over the life of that material.

18 (10) "Nonstructural or nonseismic" means interior elements or
19 components that are not load bearing or do not assist in the seismic
20 design, and do not require design computations for a building's
21 structure. It excludes the structural frame supporting a building.
22 Common nonstructural elements or components include, but are not
23 limited to, ceiling and partition systems. These elements employ
24 normal and typical bracing conventions and are not part of the
25 structural integrity of the building.

26 (11) "Partition" means a wall which does not support a vertical
27 load of a structure other than its own weight, but may support loads
28 attached to it such as cabinetry, shelving, or grab bars, and does not
29 extend further than from the floor of an interior area of a structure
30 designed for human habitation or occupancy, to the underside of the
31 deck of that structure.

32 (12) "Programming" means the scope of work which includes, but is
33 not limited to: Conducting research; identifying and analyzing the
34 needs and goals of the client or occupants of the space; evaluating
35 existing documentation and conditions; assessing project resources and
36 limitations; identifying life, safety, and code requirements; and
37 developing project schedules and budgets.

1 (13) "Reflected ceiling plan" means a ceiling design that
2 illustrates a ceiling as if it was projected downward and may include
3 lighting and other elements.

4 (14) "Registered interior designer" means a person registered under
5 this chapter who is a registered design professional qualified by
6 education, experience, and examination to affect the function, safety,
7 and quality of interior spaces, and who renders or offers to render
8 interior design services.

9 (15) "Responsible supervisory control" is the direct responsibility
10 for supervision by a registered interior designer of the work and the
11 decision-making process such as reviewing, enforcing, and controlling
12 compliance with all design criteria and life-safety requirements. Each
13 location designated for the practice of interior design must have in
14 that location a registered interior designer who bears regulatory
15 responsibility for the interior design work in that location. The
16 registered interior designer must provide responsible supervisory
17 control over nonregistered persons working in that location in the
18 practice of interior design.

19 (16) "Space planning" means the analysis and design of spatial and
20 occupancy requirements including, but not limited to, preliminary space
21 layouts and final planning for nonload-bearing walls, partitions,
22 panels, and furnishings.

23 (17) "Specifications" means the detailed written description of
24 construction, workmanship, and materials of the work to be undertaken.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Only individuals registered under this
26 chapter may render interior design services. No person shall be
27 identified as a registered interior designer who is not registered in
28 Washington state.

29 (2) No firm, partnership, association, or corporation may engage in
30 the practice of interior design, or hold itself out to the public as
31 being engaged in the practice of interior design or use the word
32 "interior design" or "registered interior designer" in its name in any
33 manner unless all interior design services are rendered by or under the
34 responsible supervisory control of persons registered under this
35 chapter.

36 (3) Registration shall be renewed every two years.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Each applicant for registration shall be
2 required to hold an accredited certificate, diploma, or degree in
3 interior design.

4 (1) As of January 1, 2012, all interior design programs must be
5 accredited by the council for interior design accreditation or be an
6 interior design program determined by the board to be substantially
7 equivalent to an accredited program. If the interior design program is
8 accredited by the council for interior design within two years of an
9 applicant's completion of the program, then the program will be
10 accepted as a council for interior design accredited program.

11 (2) Each applicant shall provide proof of a minimum of two years of
12 full-time diversified interior design experience under direct
13 supervision of a registered interior designer or licensed architect,
14 within established standards as the board, by rule, deems appropriate
15 required on the effective date of this act.

16 (3) Each applicant shall provide to the board proof of passage of
17 the examination administered by the national council for interior
18 design qualification.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Any person who applies for registration or
20 licensure and remits the application within a two-year period after the
21 effective date of this act shall be registered or licensed by the board
22 provided that the applicant meets subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this
23 section:

24 (1) The applicant has previously passed the national council for
25 interior design qualification examination;

26 (2) In lieu of the requirement for an accredited baccalaureate
27 degree or degree, diploma, or certificate from a program with a minimum
28 number of credit hours in interior design coursework as determined by
29 the board, the board may register an applicant who demonstrates in
30 accordance with such standards that the board deems equivalent; and

31 (3) In lieu of the requirement for an accredited baccalaureate
32 degree or degree, diploma, or certificate from a program with a minimum
33 number of credit hours in interior design coursework as determined by
34 the board, the board may register applicants who provide documented
35 proof of diversified experience in the practice of interior design for
36 a minimum of fifteen years.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The governor shall appoint seven board
2 members to an interior design board. Nominees shall come from a list
3 of names supplied by Washington state chapter of American society of
4 interior designers and northern pacific chapter of international
5 interior design association. Both organizations shall provide a
6 minimum of ten names to be considered for appointment.

7 (2) Each member of the initially appointed board shall be qualified
8 as described by sections 4 and 5 of this act. Appointments shall be
9 limited to registered interior designers and for a duration of five
10 years. Each member shall hold office until the appointment and
11 qualification of his or her successor. Vacancies occurring prior to
12 the expiration of the term shall be filled by appointment in like
13 manner for the unexpired term. The governor may remove any of the
14 members of the board for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or dishonorable
15 conduct.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The renewal date for licenses shall be
17 set by the board.

18 (2) A registered interior designer in good standing may withdraw
19 from active registration with the state by giving written notice to the
20 department, and may within five years thereafter resume active
21 registration. An interior designer may be reinstated after a
22 withdrawal of more than five years under such circumstances as the
23 board determines.

24 (3) An interior designer registered under this chapter must
25 complete one national council for interior design qualification
26 approved continuing education unit, equal to ten hours of continuing
27 education instruction, every two years. The board in consultation with
28 professional organizations representing interior design must develop a
29 form to verify continuing education.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Each registered interior designer shall
31 obtain a seal as prescribed by the board. Any interior design
32 construction documents, which may include drawings, plans,
33 specifications, or reports prepared or issued by the registered
34 interior designer and being filed for public record with any
35 jurisdiction or local building department for the purposes of obtaining
36 a building permit shall bear the signature and seal of the interior

1 designer who prepared or approved the document and the date sealed.
2 The seal shall be evidence of the authenticity of the document.
3 Interior design construction documents bearing the seal of a registered
4 interior designer shall be accepted for filing by the appropriate
5 jurisdiction or local building department.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The board may waive the examination
7 requirement of this section for an individual who holds a current valid
8 interior design registration from another state and who holds a current
9 certificate number issued by the national council for interior design
10 qualification, and where the qualifications required by that state are
11 equivalent or more stringent, as determined by the board, to those
12 required in this state.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) This chapter does not apply to licensed
14 architects registered or licensed under this state, providing that such
15 architects not refer to themselves as registered interior designers
16 unless registered by this chapter.

17 (2) This chapter does not apply to an employee of a retail
18 establishment providing consultation regarding interior decoration or
19 furnishings on the premises of the retail establishment or in the
20 furtherance of a retail sale or prospective retail sale, providing such
21 persons do not refer to themselves as a registered interior designer.
22 This chapter does not apply to a person who provides decorative
23 services or assistance in selection of surface materials, window
24 treatments, wall coverings, paint, floor coverings, surface-mounted
25 fixtures, and loose furnishings not subject to regulation under
26 applicable provisions of jurisdictional codes, regulations, or the
27 jurisdictional fire codes, providing such persons do not refer to
28 themselves as a registered interior designer.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The board shall provide grounds for
30 disciplinary action, and have disciplinary power to suspend, revoke,
31 fine, annul registration, or impose civil penalty for each violation
32 provided that there is satisfactory proof of violated provisions of the
33 rules adopted by the board.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The board shall provide procedures for
2 investigations, considerations, and guidelines.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A violation of any provision of this
4 chapter shall be punishable as established by the board. Any person
5 who, for a fee or other direct compensation, holds himself or herself
6 out as a registered interior designer, advertises, puts out any sign,
7 card, or drawings in this state designating himself or herself as a
8 registered interior designer, or uses some form of the term "interior
9 design" in the title of a profession or business, or who engages in the
10 preparation of plans and specifications or executes tasks identified as
11 interior design services without first having complied with the
12 provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon
13 conviction thereof shall be fined up to one thousand dollars for each
14 offense, and each and every day of violation of this chapter shall
15 constitute a separate offense.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** Sections 1 through 13 of this act
17 constitute a new chapter in Title 18 RCW.

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