



HOUSE BILL 590: Interior Design Profession Act.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re-	Date:	May 17, 2017
	refer to Finance		
Introduced by:	Reps. Riddell, McElraft, Saine, S. Martin	Prepared by:	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition		Legislative Analyst
	H590-CSSB-21 [v.1]		

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 590 would establish a voluntary registration for interior designers to be administered by the Department of Insurance. The bill would also allow registered interior designers to obtain building permits from local governments.*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would establish a voluntary registration for interior designers in the Department of Insurance (Department) as follows:

- The Department would register interior designers who meet certain requirements, including passage of an examination administered by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification and payment of an application fee established by the Department not to exceed \$100.00.
- Registered interior designers would be required to renew their registrations, complete continuing education requirements, and pay a renewal fee established by the Department, not to exceed \$50.00, every two years in order to maintain their registration.
- The Department would register interior designers who are licensed, certified, or registered in other jurisdictions if the Department determined that the requirements of the other jurisdictions were substantially the same as those in North Carolina. The Department would charge a reciprocal registration fee not to exceed \$50.00.
- The Department could refuse to issue or renew or suspend or revoke a registration for a number of reasons, including fraud, substance abuse issues, improper use of the title "registered interior designer", and unprofessional conduct likely to harm the public. The Department could assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 per offense against a registrant and could seek injunctive relief to prohibit violation of the new registration law.
- Each of the following would be a Class 2 misdemeanor:
 - Improper use of a registered interior designer's signature or seal
 - Use of an expired, inactive, suspended, or revoked registration or seal.
 - Obtaining or attempting to obtain a registration by fraud.

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- A registered interior designer would be authorized to obtain permits from the State and local governments for interior alteration or construction projects within the scope of the practice of interior design.
- The following persons would be exempt from the new registration law while engaged in the proper scope of their professions:
 - Interior decorators.
 - Licensed design professionals.
 - Attorneys.
 - Licensed general contractors.
 - Unregistered interior designers.

Section 2

Under current law, the laws for licensure and regulation of the practice of architecture don't prohibit the practice of architecture by a partnership nor require partnership seals or certificates of practice if the members of the partnership are licensed architects.

Section 2 would amend this law so that only one member of the practice would be required to be a licensed architect.

Section 3

Under current law, a local government may not issue a building permit unless the plans for the work are prepared by a licensed architect or licensed engineer as required by State law.

Section 3 would add registered interior designers to the types of professionals required for certain building permits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2017.