



HOUSE BILL 590: Interior Design Profession Act.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Finance	Date:	May 23, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Riddell, McElraft, Saine, S. Martin	Prepared by:	Greg Roney
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H590-CSTM-11		Committee Counsel

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

The PCS authorizes the following fees: \$100 application fee, \$50 renewal fee, and \$50 reciprocal registration fee.

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 a \$100 application fee.
- Registered interior designers would be required to renew their registrations, complete continuing education requirements, and pay a \$50 renewal fee 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 and that the interior designer was familiar with the State Building Code. The Department would charge a \$50 reciprocal registration fee.
- 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 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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House PCS 590

Page 2

- 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 (architect, landscape architect, engineer, or land surveyor).
 - Attorneys.
 - Licensed general contractors.
 - Unregistered interior designers.

Section 2

Under current law, all the members of a partnership practicing architecture must be licensed architects.

Section 2 would amend this law and require that only 1 member of the partnership 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: The PCS for House Bill 590 would be effective October 1, 2017.

Karen Cochrane-Brown and Jeffrey Hudson, both with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.