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GRAction

a government relations newsletter published by the association for interior design professionals

April 6, 2007

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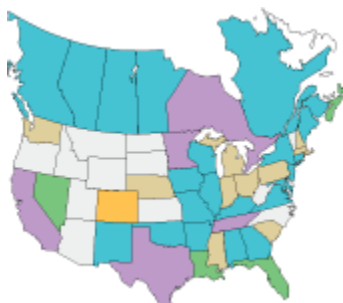
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Interior Design Laws of North America



- Title Act
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Dear IIDA Member,

Spring is a busy time of year for IIDA's advocacy efforts as the new legislative sessions begin in many states. Currently, IIDA Headquarters is collaborating with the Tennessee Interior Design Coalition to finalize a video that will be made available to all the IIDA Chapters as a tool to explain how important it is to support interior design legislation and registration. Your Chapter leaders are aware of the video status and I am sure they will share the video with you at your next Chapter event.

As mentioned in our last issue, we are highlighting coalition activity and this month IIDA's Mid-Atlantic Chapter shares their current GRA related strategies within their multi-state and district Chapter. Thanks to Frank Norcross for submitting a great report!

Sincerely,

Carrie L. Fitzpatrick, IIDA

IIDA Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs

IIDA Challenges Article Written by Washington Post Columnist George Will

In response to the recent [George Will column](#) critical of interior design legislation, IIDA sent the following Letter to the Editor to the Washington Post and 23 syndicate publications.

Dear Editor:

In response to the recent George Will column, I am replying on behalf of the 12,000 members of the International Interior Design Association.

The fundamental flaw in Mr. Will's article relates to his misrepresentation that interior design does not affect the public's health, safety and welfare.

The fact is the primary purpose of interior design laws is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public, not to qualify a designer's taste or style regardless of education or examination prerequisites for such laws. In public spaces there are over 700 fires per month which involve interior content as the first ignition point of the fire, leading to 23 deaths, and 330 injuries, and over \$399 million in direct property damage each year.

It is important to recognize that interior design affects every space you encounter in life. The difference between qualified and unqualified interior designers impacts everyone.

When designing a space in a hospital, for example, a qualified interior designer understands the relevant safety code and practices necessary to design a safe, effective space and will know which type of products and finishes are flame retardant, antibacterial and anti-microbial; which will withstand harsh cleansers and strict sanitary protocols; and which colors and types of lighting will aid recovery and enhance healing.

When designing a residential or commercial space, a qualified interior designer would address similar

Practice Act Introduced

issues. Without a clear understanding of important regulations, an unqualified designer might inadvertently violate codes or even create life-threatening hazards.

Interior design laws set parameters for interior design professionals, as well as provide a means for the consumer to bring action against those practicing who are unqualified.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Fitzpatrick, IIDA
IIDA Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs

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Do you have an article or image to share? [Submit](#) content and images related to bill language, codes, coalitions, construction, interior design laws and regulations, legislation, and other issues relating to the practice of interior design.

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This issue of GRA Action features an article from Frank A. Norcross, IIDA, AIA, the former interior design proponent for the US Army Corps of Engineers and current Vice President of GRA, IIDA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Why IIDA Mid-Atlantic is Committed to Government and Regulatory Action

The Region. Washington-Baltimore is the fourth largest metropolitan area in the United States with a population increase of 13.1% in the last ten years. In addition, Washington is a major center for government contracting and Baltimore (*39 miles*) and Annapolis (*32 miles*) are major contracting hubs for the State of Maryland. Richmond (*107 miles*) is the source for state contracting in Virginia. The Mid-Atlantic region is also heavily influenced by federal government policies and procurement actions.

Government and the major industries create a large market for commercial office space and commercial office products. The Washington DC area is also a major market for hospitality interiors. We are a major interior design market, and the federal and state sectors have a broad influence on professional standards across the country. Certified interior designers, ASID, and IIDA support our member's ability to participate in this specialized growing economy with the proper professional licenses required for key project professionals.

Laws and Regulations. Professional interior designers in this region often practice in all three jurisdictions. The District of Columbia already has a practice act; Maryland and Virginia have title acts. The federal government is moving toward making interior designers a professional series on an equal footing with engineers and architects. The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) is being implemented in 2007 as the personnel system for the Department of Defense (DoD); this system will give DoD flexibility in the classification of professionals, lawyers, managers, and other personnel. DoD has 20% of the interior designers in the federal government. The General Services Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs also have significant concentrations.

DoD does not see professional interior designers as just color pickers or furniture movers. Their jobs include design of interiors to support organizational efficiency and productivity. They are responsible for knowing the procurement regulations that support both competition and quality standards. Interior designers must be able to make the case for a best value determination for items that cannot be defined by material specifications. The federal government supports sustainable design, and interior designers have a significant role in the selection of environmentally preferable products. To do this the interior designer must be an integral part of the professional

team that includes architects and engineers who create the projects that provide the customer the best possible support for his mission in the most economical way.

Where are we headed? IIDA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members, the Washington Metro Chapter of ASID, Maryland Chapter ASID, and certified interior designers in Maryland support the Maryland Coalition of Interior Designers (MDCID). MDCID is laying groundwork to introduce a practice act before the Maryland legislature in the 2008 session. This is a long-term commitment to building awareness and support for such an act. Fund raising to support the effort is also a significant issue. MDCID held a legislator's breakfast in March, is planning an awareness meeting for May, and is planning a fundraiser for early summer. We learn lessons every day from our experiences. The monthly GRA conference call also provides a forum for discussion of ideas and problems. With everyone's support and commitment to professionalism, we can succeed in advancing the profession.

Licensing / Registration / Certification

Licensure, registration and certification assists the profession in establishing and maintaining standards to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Visit IIDA's online [licensing guide](#) to find out what states and jurisdictions have interior design laws.

IIDA firmly believes that legal recognition, achieved through licensing, registration, and certification brings uniformity to the profession, defines responsibility, and encourages excellence in the interior design industry.

State GRA Updates

Arizona

The IDCA (Interior Design Coalition of Arizona) has begun its 2007 Spring Membership drive. Designers throughout the Grand Canyon state are encouraged to send in dues to support upcoming legislative efforts. For membership forms and more information please visit IDCA's web site: www.IDCA.info

In addition, the IDCA Board is moving title act efforts forward this year, looking at draft bill language as well as other items related to successful passage of legislation in Arizona. Contact Carl Clark, President of IDCA, for more information, ceclark@uneedspeed.net.

Arkansas

[AR HB1269](#) (Act to Transfer Various State Agencies to Promote Efficiency in State Government) sponsored by Garner adds the Registered Interior Designers Board to the State Board of Architects.

Maryland

The Maryland Coalition of Interior Designers (MDCID) is laying groundwork to introduce a practice act before the Maryland legislature in the 2008 session. The Washington Metro Chapter of ASID, Maryland Chapter ASID, [IIDA Mid-Atlantic Chapter](#) members, and certified interior designers in Maryland support MDCID.

Minnesota

[IIDA Northland Chapter](#), ASID Minnesota, and MIDLAC co-sponsored Rally Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 in support of the Interior Design Practice Act, [SF799](#). Authored by House Representatives Erin Murphy and Paul Thissen, the proposed bill changes the existing interior design law providing for licensure in lieu of certification of interior designers by the Minnesota Board

California

Both Northern California and Southern California IIDA Chapters resigned their membership from CLCID in December and January. Subsequently both Chapters attended the IDCC (Interior Design Coalition of California) conference on February 3rd in San Francisco. IDCC was formerly known as the Coalition for Interior Design Accountability (CIDA). Present were Pam Light (IIDA International President), Carrie Fitzpatrick (IIDA International Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs), Jim Klawiter (IIDA-SC President Elect), Greg Price (IIDA-NC VP of GRA), Susanne Molina (IIDA-SC VP of GRA) and representatives from the 8 California ASID chapters. Individual membership is encouraged but no financial contribution is required. Requests for funding from IDCC will be presented to chapters as a Practice Act is pursued by this coalition.

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Connecticut

CT SB 1300 ([An Act Concerning Interior Designers](#)), adds the "Council for Qualification of Residential Designers" examination to section 20-377n of the existing interior design law in Connecticut (Chapter 396a).

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Colorado

CO SB 084 ([Registered Interior Designers Data Base](#)), sponsored by Senator McElhany and Representative Jahn, requires the state board of licensure for architects, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors to maintain a data base of registered interior designers in this state. It authorizes the board to charge a fee for recording information in the data base and it makes the data base open to public inspection at all times.

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Indiana

IN SB 490 ([Registering Interior Designers](#)), sponsored by Senators Kruse and Mishler, changes the board of registration for architects and landscape architects to the board of registration for

of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design.

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New Hampshire

NH HB 881 ([relative to the licensure and regulation of interior designers](#)) sponsored by Rep. Wood, Belk 4; Rep. Brueggemann, Merr 12; Rep. Yeaton, Merr 8; Sen. Letourneau, Dist 19; and Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 24 establishes a board of interior designers as part of the joint board of licensure and certification and regulates the practice of interior design.

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New Mexico

On Sunday, March 18, NM SB 535 passed the House by a vote of 52-0. SB 535, sponsored by Sen. Mary Kay Papen, would amend the current interior design law, changing the title regulated from "interior designer" to "licensed interior designer." This amendment would allow qualified interior designers to register with the New Mexico Board of Interior Design and to use the title "licensed interior designer." SB 535 was introduced on Jan. 22 and passed the Senate on March 2 by a vote of 35-0. The bill will now go to the governor for approval.

IIDA Southwest is seeking New Mexico based interior designers, both affiliated and non-affiliated with IIDA, interested in supporting the existing title act legislation in the state. Please contact Simone Schoen, VP of GRA, Southwest Chapter, at sschoen@dfdia.com.

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New York

[NY AB 6534](#), sponsored by Assemblymember Ron Canestrari, makes certain technical corrections relating to the practice of interior design; provides exemptions for certain persons from requirements for certification therefore; requires disclosure relating to commissions and fees. In the Senate, Senator LaValle introduced this bill as [SB 3659](#).

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Oregon

[IDC-Oregon](#) recently completed a *Collaborative Trust Building* workshop with 35 attendees. In addition, recent accomplishments include by-law revisions, strategic planning and board recruitment.

architects, landscape architects, and interior designers. It adds an interior designer to the board and updates language concerning the board's operation and powers. It also requires the board to register interior designers, establishes the requirements for registration and fees, and requires the board to deposit the fees into the state general fund.

Illinois

The Illinois Interior Design Coalition is sponsoring a breakfast meeting for all design firms, furniture dealers, general contractors and other service providers to explain the Governor's proposed Gross Receipts Tax and how it will effect all service providers reporting over \$1,000,000 in gross receipts. The meeting will be held on the 8th floor of the Merchandise Mart on April 17. For more information, email info@iidcpac.org.

IDC-Oregon meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month.

Tennessee

The Tennessee Interior Design Consumer Protection Act, HB84 and SB210, was introduced into the House and Senate on February 5. The bill would regulate the practice of interior design, replacing the existing 1991 title act, and is currently being considered in both houses. Visit www.tidc.org for bill status, details, and supporting information

Texas

TX SB 832, ([Renewal of Interior Design Certificate](#)), sponsored by Senator Lucio, amends the State of Texas Occupational Code.

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