



Protect your rights!

Update

2/7/11

Wednesday's hearing on Senate Bill 110-67 to register interior designers concluded with the Chair sending the bill to the Department of Regulatory Agencies for a "sunrise" evaluation. This was the action IDPC requested the Committee take.

DORA is "dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado." A sunrise review examines whether or not there is a need to regulate a previously unregulated occupation or profession. Importantly, DORA may decline reviews in the case of a repeat application with no new information provided. That is precisely the case here.

In December of 2008, DORA conducted an extensive and thorough examination of the interior design Cartel's claim that such regulations were necessary to protect the public. The Department examined every jurisdiction which had some form of interior design regulation, as well as information gathered from ASID, the Colorado Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors, the Attorney General Consumer Protection Section, and the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau, and found absolutely no evidence whatsoever to support the assertion that additional regulation of the design community was necessary to protect the "health, safety and welfare" of the public.

Accordingly, DORA concluded that regulation of the profession was not needed. Nothing has changed since the DORA report was issued barely 2 years ago... other than that Colorado's economy has worsened, the State's unemployment rate has risen to a 20 year high of 8.8%, and its budget deficit has increased to an estimated \$1.5 billion for fiscal year 2011-2012. It makes even less sense today to regulate designers than it did in 2008.

We are confident that DORA will reach the same conclusion as it did last time and that the bill will not pass out of Committee. We will, of course, continue to monitor the bill and let you know as soon as we have anything new to report.

Action Needed to STOP SB 11-067

1/28/11

IDPC Colorado Members,

Senate Bill 11-067 will impact your ability to practice the full scope of interior design, as well as place you at an unfair competitive marketing disadvantage.

To protect your rights, you must do two things:

1. Attend the hearing
2. Contact the members of the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee

The hearing on this design registration bill which will establish a state-sanctioned title for interior

designers and prohibit the filing of interior design plans and specifications by anyone other than a designer who is registered is scheduled for hearing on **February 2, 2011** in Room 354 at 1:30 pm. This bill will create the title of Colorado Registered Interior Designer and prohibit anyone who is not a Registered Interior Designer (or an architect or engineer) from preparing interior design documents and specifications for interior finishes of a building or structure of any size, height, and occupancy and filing it for purposes of obtaining approval for a building permit. To become registered, you must:

- have 6 years of formal education and experience, with at least 2 years of diversified internship,

AND

- pass the NCIDQ exam, which has historically had a 40% first-time passage rate for all 3 sections and can cost \$2,000 or more to take.

This bill will absolutely impact your ability to compete in the fair and open market.

THERE ARE NO EXEMPTIONS INCLUDED IN THE BILL! ALL IT WILL DO IS PROHIBIT THE MAJORITY OF DESIGNERS AND CONTRACTORS FROM SUBMITTING NONSTRUCTURAL PLANS TO BUILDING DEPARTMENTS.

Further, the bill will divide the design community into those who are recognized by the state as having some sort of special skill and expertise...and all others who are unable to become state registered -- making you a second class citizen in your field. Certainly, the public will attach undue added value to state recognition and place you at an unfair competitive disadvantage in seeking work. Why should the state help a small group of designers market their services over those of their competitors? They should compete on the merits of their ability, portfolio and client references and let the client decide.

Contact each member of the Business, Labor and Technology Committee know how harmful and unnecessary this bill is.

[Sample letter to Committee available here.](#)

[Contact info for Committee available here.](#)

[Senate Bill 11-067 available here.](#)

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