
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1258 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, FARRY, SCHROEDER, THOMAS, MULLINS,
T. DAVIS, MILLARD, SANKEY, A. DAVIS, BENHAM, SCHWEYER AND
BURNS, APRIL 21, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, APRIL 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Providing for the registration of interior designers; imposing
2 powers and duties on the Bureau of Consumer Protection;
3 establishing the Registered Interior Design Account; imposing
4 penalties; and for abrogation of regulations.

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8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 CHAPTER 1

11 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

12 Section 101. Short title.

13 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Interior
14 Designer Registration Act.

15 Section 102. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
17 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Bureau." The Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of
20 Attorney General.

21 "Code-regulated interior design services." Interior design
22 services performed by a registered interior designer that comply
23 with the requirements of and regulations promulgated under the
24 act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the
25 Pennsylvania Construction Code Act.

26 "Contract document." A document that forms part of the legal
27 contract for services between various parties, including
28 detailed instructions to the contractor, tender forms, interior
29 construction documents and specifications.

30 "Council for Interior Design Qualification" or "CIDQ." An

1 independent, nonprofit organization of state and provincial
2 credentialing bodies that develops and administers the National
3 Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination
4 with the purpose of establishing minimum standards of competence
5 for the professional practice of interior design relative to
6 building codes and industry standards.

7 "Demolition." The partial or complete destruction of a
8 structure.

9 "Interior construction document." Plans, detailed drawings,
10 specifications and schedules that define the work to be
11 constructed as required by law for building permitting. The
12 plan, detailed specifications and schedules may include, but are
13 not limited to:

14 (1) Allocations of space, elevations, sections, details
15 and specifications to illustrate partition layouts.

16 (2) Power and communication locations.

17 (3) Reflected ceiling plans and lighting layouts,
18 switching, details and designs.

19 (4) Materials and finishes.

20 (5) Furniture layouts.

21 (6) Graphic instructions and related drawings supplied
22 by an associated consultant and to be used for the
23 construction of the project.

24 "Interior decorator services." The selection of furnishings,
25 surface materials, decorative accessories, window treatments,
26 blinds and draperies, wallpaper and coverings, paint, floor
27 coverings, surface-mounted lighting and equipment that does not
28 affect the means of egress or the health, safety or welfare of
29 the occupants of a building or structure as determined by any
30 building codes, ordinances, laws and regulations.

1 "Interior design services." The selection and placement of
2 nonstructural elements within the interior space of a building
3 or structure, and the rendering of or the offering to render
4 designs, consultations, studies, planning, drawings, contract
5 documents, interior construction documents or other technical
6 submissions and the administration of interior construction and
7 contracts relating to non-load-bearing interior construction of
8 a building or structure.

9 "Non-load-bearing interior construction." An interior
10 element or component that does not require design calculations
11 or computations for a building's structure and does not support
12 a vertical load of a structure other than its own weight, but
13 that may support loads attached to it such as cabinetry or
14 shelving.

15 "Person." Includes a corporation, partnership, limited
16 liability company, business trust, other association or natural
17 person.

18 "Reflected ceiling plan." A drawing illustrating a ceiling
19 design that appears projected downward, including light
20 fixtures, materials, height designations and ceiling fixtures
21 that may include placement or location of exit devices, smoke
22 detectors and other elements as required by the design.

23 "Registered interior designer." An individual who holds a
24 current valid registration under this act.

25 "Residential space." A place of residence of individuals
26 that does not require code-regulated interior design services.
27 The term includes, but is not limited to, a single-family home,
28 a two-family home or a townhouse. The term does not include a
29 place more than three stories above grade plane.

30 "Specifications." A detailed, written description of

1 construction, workmanship and materials for work to be
2 undertaken.

3 "Technical submittal." Designs, drawings, specifications,
4 studies and other technical reports prepared and reviewed in the
5 course of the professional practice of interior design.

6 CHAPTER 3

7 REGISTRATION

8 Section 301. Qualifications of registered interior designers.

9 (a) General rule.--No individual may hold himself out as a
10 registered interior designer without first registering with the
11 bureau as provided for in this act. Nothing in this act shall
12 prohibit an individual from using the title "interior designer,"
13 practicing code-regulated interior design services or preparing
14 interior construction documents under the stamp and signature of
15 a licensed architect or professional engineer, but the
16 individual may not hold himself out to be a registered interior
17 designer unless the individual meets the requirements of this
18 act.

19 (b) Exception.--An exemption for registration with the
20 bureau shall be made for an individual qualified as:

21 (1) A licensed architect.

22 (2) A professional engineer.

23 (3) A person who does not perform code-regulated
24 interior design services.

25 (4) A person who performs interior decorator services
26 for a residential space.

27 (c) Registration qualifications.--To qualify as a registered
28 interior designer, an applicant shall:

29 (1) Be of good moral character.

30 (2) Have passed the CIDQ's examinations required for

1 NCIDQ certification and maintain a valid active NCIDQ
2 certification or its successor.

3 Section 302. Registration procedures.

4 (a) Application form.--An individual must apply to the
5 bureau in writing on a form provided by the bureau or
6 electronically via the secure registration web page on the
7 bureau's publicly accessible Internet website. The bureau may
8 make the modifications to the registration web page and database
9 that are necessary to facilitate online registration of interior
10 designers. The application shall include the following
11 information:

12 (1) The name of the applicant.

13 (2) The date of birth of the applicant.

14 (3) The applicant's home address and home telephone
15 number.

16 (4) The applicant's driver's license number, a copy of
17 an identification card issued by the state in which the
18 individual resides or another form of identification as
19 permitted by the bureau.

20 (5) The applicant's business or employer's name, Federal
21 employment identification number, address and telephone
22 number, if applicable.

23 (6) The applicant's Social Security number.

24 (7) All prior business names and addresses of interior
25 design businesses operated by the applicant.

26 (8) A complete description of the nature of the interior
27 design business of the applicant.

28 (9) Proof of satisfaction of the registration
29 qualifications in section 301(c).

30 (10) A statement whether:

1 (i) The applicant has ever been convicted of a
2 criminal offense related to fraud, theft, a crime of
3 deception or a crime involving fraudulent business
4 practices, as well as a statement whether the applicant
5 has ever filed a petition in bankruptcy or, within the
6 last 10 years, received a final civil judgment entered
7 against the applicant or businesses in which the
8 applicant held an interest that was related to interior
9 design services provided by the applicant.

10 (ii) The applicant's registration or license issued
11 by another state or political subdivision has ever been
12 revoked or suspended pursuant to an order issued by a
13 court of competent jurisdiction and if so, the current
14 status of the registration or license. The statement
15 required by this subparagraph shall include the same
16 information with respect to any other business in which
17 the person making application has ever had an interest.

18 (11) Proof of general liability insurance, if required
19 under subsection (b).

20 (b) General liability insurance.--Applicants applying as a
21 sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability partnership,
22 limited liability company or business corporation shall provide
23 proof of general liability insurance in an amount not less than
24 \$50,000.

25 (1) If the applicant is self-insured, proof of insurance
26 may include a statement attested to by an applicant that the
27 applicant is self-insured.

28 (2) The bureau shall develop and make available forms
29 for applicants claiming to be self-insured.

30 (3) The bureau may determine the sufficiency of the

1 self-insurance and the manner in which it is maintained in
2 compliance with this act.

3 (c) Multiple registrations or licenses.--A registered
4 interior designer in this Commonwealth who is registered or
5 licensed as an interior designer in another state or political
6 subdivision shall report that information to the bureau on the
7 initial registration application and biennial registration
8 application. Disciplinary action taken in the other jurisdiction
9 shall be reported to the bureau on the initial registration
10 application or, if the disciplinary action occurred subsequent
11 to submission of an initial application, on the biennial
12 registration application or within 90 days of final disposition,
13 whichever is sooner. Multiple registrations or licenses shall be
14 noted by the bureau on the registered interior designer's
15 registration, and the state or political subdivision shall be
16 notified by the bureau of disciplinary actions taken in this
17 Commonwealth against the registered interior designer.

18 Section 303. Application fees.

19 (a) Amount.--Each application or renewal application shall
20 be accompanied by a fee of \$50 that shall be deposited into the
21 Registered Interior Design Account established under subsection
22 (c). Upon approval of the application, the bureau shall issue
23 the applicant a registration card identifying the name of the
24 individual, name and address of the business of the applicant
25 and a registration number.

26 (b) Term of registration.--A registration issued under this
27 section shall be valid for two years and may be renewed
28 biennially with the bureau pursuant to the renewal requirements
29 under section 305.

30 (c) Registered Interior Design Account.--The Registered

1 Interior Design Account is established within the General Fund
2 as a nonlapsing, restricted receipt account. Money in the
3 account is hereby appropriated on a continuing basis to the
4 Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for administering and
5 enforcing the provisions of this act and to protect consumers
6 with respect to registered interior design services through
7 consumer education and other means.

8 Section 304. Proof of registration.

9 (a) Code-regulated interior design services.--A registered
10 interior designer practicing code-regulated interior design
11 services within this Commonwealth shall affix the signature and
12 registration number of the registered interior designer to an
13 interior construction document certifying compliance with
14 applicable current building codes, ordinances, laws and
15 regulations defining the work to be constructed for approval of
16 a construction permit by a building official or fire marshal.
17 Documents may be combined with documents prepared under the
18 stamp and signature of other professionals licensed or
19 registered under the laws of this Commonwealth performing
20 services within the professional's authorized scope of
21 practice. Documents may also include the technical submittals
22 coordinated by the registered interior designer as required by
23 contract documents.

24 (b) Advertisements.--A registered interior designer shall
25 include the registration number in all advertisements
26 distributed within this Commonwealth.

27 (c) Applicability.--This section shall apply to all
28 advertisements, contracts, estimates and proposals created by a
29 registered interior designer after the effective date of this
30 section.

1 Section 305. Biennial renewal.

2 For biennial renewal of a registration, the following shall
3 apply:

4 (1) In addition to the initial application requirements
5 under section 302, a registered interior designer must
6 biennially provide certification of successful completion of
7 a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education. Continuing
8 education activities that satisfy the professional
9 development requirements include, but are not limited to, the
10 following:

11 (i) Completion of accredited college or university
12 coursework in interior design or a related field.

13 (ii) Completion of continuing education courses
14 offered or accepted by the Interior Design Continuing
15 Education Council (IDCEC), Green Business Certification
16 Inc. (GBCI), the accrediting body of the American
17 Institute of Architects or other accrediting agencies and
18 institutions related to interior design.

19 (2) Certification of continuing education credit hours
20 submitted by the registered interior designer shall be
21 verified as being correct and true by the applicant.
22 Falsification of credit hours shall result in immediate
23 revocation of the registered interior designer's
24 certification.

25 (3) A registered interior designer must file a completed
26 bureau-approved renewal application and pay the appropriate
27 fee.

28 CHAPTER 5

29 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

30 Section 501. Public information.

1 (a) Public access to registration information.--The bureau
2 shall maintain a toll-free telephone number from which a caller
3 can obtain information as to whether an interior designer is
4 registered with the bureau under this act, as well as
5 information that may be obtained on the bureau's publicly
6 accessible Internet website.

7 (b) Confidentiality of personal information.--The bureau
8 shall create a policy for the disclosure of personal information
9 to the public. The bureau may not disclose to the public a
10 registered interior designer's or applicant's Social Security
11 number, driver's license number or any confidential information
12 prohibited by law from being disclosed. An interior designer's
13 home address and home telephone number shall be disclosed only
14 if the home address and home telephone number are also used as
15 the interior designer's business address and business telephone
16 number.

17 Section 502. Prohibited acts.

18 (a) General rule.--Nothing in this act shall prohibit an
19 individual from practicing code-regulated interior design
20 services or preparing interior construction documents under the
21 stamp and signature of a licensed architect or professional
22 engineer, but the individual may not hold himself out to be a
23 registered interior designer unless the individual meets the
24 requirements of this act.

25 (b) Misrepresentation.--An individual who is not registered
26 by the bureau as a registered interior designer is prohibited
27 from printing a written or printed circular, business card,
28 letterhead or sign, or otherwise assuming the title of
29 registered interior designer or the abbreviation "R.I.D." An
30 individual who misrepresents himself as a registered interior

1 designer commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

2 (c) Construction.--The following shall apply:

3 (1) Nothing in this act shall prohibit use of the title
4 "interior designer" by a nonregistered individual.

5 (2) Nothing in this act shall prohibit an unregistered
6 individual from performing professional services limited to
7 the planning, design and implementation of kitchen and bath
8 spaces or the specification of products for kitchen and bath
9 areas in residential spaces.

10 (3) Nothing in this act shall prohibit an individual
11 from engaging in the practice for which that individual is
12 licensed or certified to practice or to act within the scope
13 of that license or certification held in this Commonwealth.

14 (4) Nothing in this act or any other law or regulation
15 of this Commonwealth shall prohibit a registered interior
16 designer from being directly compensated for the preparation
17 of interior construction documents.

18 (d) Regulation.--No political subdivision may in any manner
19 regulate a registered interior designer. No building official,
20 fire marshal or any other municipal employee authorized to issue
21 construction permits shall require a registered interior
22 designer to submit an interior construction document or
23 technical submittal pertaining to registered interior design
24 practice under the stamp and signature of a licensed architect
25 or professional engineer. A registered interior designer may
26 request the bureau to review local ordinances or actions taken
27 by a building official, fire marshal or other municipal employee
28 authorized to issue construction permits that may be in
29 violation of this section. The bureau may bring an action
30 against the political subdivision in Commonwealth Court to

1 invalidate the unauthorized local ordinance or enjoin the
2 enforcement of the unauthorized local ordinance.

3 Section 503. Regulations.

4 The bureau may adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry
5 out the provisions of this act.

6 Section 504. Permit authority.

7 (a) General rule.--A registered interior designer, only
8 after affixing the signature and registration number of the
9 registered interior designer to interior construction documents,
10 shall have the authority to submit them to a governmental entity
11 for the purpose of obtaining a construction permit.

12 (b) Demolition plan.--A registered interior designer, only
13 after affixing the signature and registration number of the
14 registered interior designer and in conjunction with the stamp
15 and seal of a licensed architect or professional engineer, shall
16 have the authority to submit interior construction documents
17 containing demolition plans to a governmental entity for the
18 purpose of obtaining a construction permit.

19 Section 505. Preemption of local registration.

20 Registration under this act shall preclude a requirement of
21 payment of a fee or registration or licensing of an interior
22 designer by a political subdivision. Political subdivisions
23 shall be permitted to require building permits and local
24 enforcement of the building code for that political subdivision,
25 for which a reasonable fee may be charged.

26 Section 506. Exemptions.

27 This act shall not apply to any of the following persons or
28 organizations:

29 (1) The Commonwealth or any of its political
30 subdivisions.

1 (2) The Federal Government.

2 CHAPTER 11

3 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

4 Section 1101. Construction.

5 This act shall supersede any conflicting provision in any
6 other laws of this Commonwealth.

7 Section 1102. Abrogation of regulations.

8 The provisions of 34 Pa. Code § 403.42a(c) are abrogated
9 insofar as they are inconsistent with this act.

10 Section 1103. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect immediately.