



TENNESSEE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 2009

Bill Highlights

PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC IS PARAMOUNT:

Currently laws in Tennessee **DOES NOT**:

- o distinguish between qualified or unqualified interior design practitioners
- o limit interior design work in large, complex projects or in high-risk occupancy types (high rise, assembly spaces – night clubs, theatres, etc.)
- o require building permits or review by code officials or other licensed professionals for much of the work of interior designers – finishes, furniture, fixtures and equipment are changed more frequently than in new building construction or significant renovation

Often it is the interior finishes, furniture and fixtures which determine the ability of the public to get out of a building quickly and safely in an emergency. Work by unqualified interior design practitioners can harm to the public. Did you know that in **public** places in the United States that there are over 700 fires per month attributed to the ignition of interior materials? And that those 700 fires each month cause more than 23 deaths and 330 injuries annually and nearly \$400 million dollars in direct property damage each year.

WHAT THIS LAW WILL DO:

- o Limit interior design practice to qualified practitioners in **commercial spaces that exceed 5,000 square feet and/or over 3-stories in height;**
- o Limit interior design practice to qualified practitioners **in high risk occupancies such as high-rise construction;**
- o Promote accredited interior design education;
- o Require monitored work experience/internship;
- o Require passage of a certification examination;
- o Require ongoing continuing education, including **a required program on structures for interior designers**
- o Provide clear guidelines for work with other related disciplines, **particularly architects**, on issues of life safety
- o Provide sealing privileges to distinguish work by qualified designers and allow a permit application for interior design work; and
- o Grand-parent designers currently registered in Tennessee as “Registered Interior Designers” **and other broadly experienced qualified practitioners.**

IN ORDER TO BE SURE NO ONE IS PUT OUT OF BUSINESS:

The law will provide the following exemptions, ensuring continuation by some to provide interior design services:

- o Architects may practice interior design but may not call themselves ‘interior designers’ without registration under the new Act;
- o Employees of registrants not in responsible charge may practice interior design but may not call themselves ‘interior designers’ without registration;
- o Retailers and employees of retailers may provide some services which could be considered interior design in the furtherance of a sale but may not call themselves ‘interior designers’ without registration;
- o Interior decorators and /or providers of decorative services may provide some services which could be considered interior design but may not call themselves ‘interior designers’ without registration ;
- o Out-of-state non-registrants may provide services if formally associated with a registrant and the out of state practitioner is qualified to practice in their own jurisdiction. However, they may not call themselves interior designers unless they are registered.

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TIDC IS A UNIFIED VOICE FOR THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSION THAT
ADVOCATES THE RECOGNITION AND REGULATION OF INTERIOR DESIGN
AS A LICENSED PROFESSION IN ORDER TO FULLY PROTECT THE
PUBLIC’S HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

SUPPORTED BY:

