

## Why is Interior Design legislation so important?

Interior Designers are currently restricted by the state of Pennsylvania from practicing Interior Design in a code based environment. In the year 2009 UCC revised the IBC codes that adapted section 403.42a Permit Application. This section states the following:

*“(c) A licensed architect or licensed professional engineer shall prepare the construction documents under the Architects Licensure Law (63 P.S. – 34.1-34.22) or the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law (63 P.S. –148-158.2). An unlicensed person may prepare design documents for the remodeling or alteration of a building if there is no compensation and the remodeling or alteration does not relate to additions to the building changes to the building’s structure or means of egress.”*

IDLCPA is currently working on legislation seeking Interior Design Licensure for designers that practice code-driven interior planning and design. Our bill will address licensure in a way that will not impact designers currently practicing in residential, kitchen and bath, and decorative markets.

## We as professionals should have the ability to..

- Allow interior designers to bid on state and federal interior design contracts
- Allow interior designers to seal and sign documents for permitting
- Ensure that interior designers will benefit from reciprocity
- Provide consumers a venue for the redress of grievances
- Reduce consumer costs by eliminating the expensive document processing
- Establish a requirement that licensed interior designers continually educate themselves on the practices of interior design.

## What will it take to become licensed?

- Education + Experience: Hold a baccalaureate degree or a master’s degree in Interior Design and complete 2 years experience. Hold an associate’s degree and have 4 years experience.
- Testing: Pass the NCIDQ
- Continuing Education: Acquire a minimum amount of hours each year of approved Continuing Education Units as approved by the Licensing Board.

## Myths vs Facts

**Myth:** Interior design legislation puts non-regulated interior designers out of business.

**FACT:** IDLCPA supports interior design legislation that allows designers to expand into areas (e.g., space planning interior spaces, stamping, signing and submitting plans for permitting) that they are currently barred from previously. IDLCPA does not support legislation that would restrict the title “Interior Designer”, residential designers or other related professions.

**Myth:** Interior design is a purely aesthetic talent that deals with colors, fabrics, finishes and furniture. There are no technical aspects of interior design.

**FACT:** Interior design as an evolving profession includes many technical aspects; individuals working in residential settings must comply with state and local building codes. While individuals working in more heavily regulated spaces such as offices, hospitality, health, education and retail must comply with building energy codes, indoor air quality and the American’s with Disabilities Act requirements, among other health and safety issues. ~ American Society of Interior Design

**Myth:** Interior design registration, certification or licensure is an attempt by national associations to create monopolies for their members.

**FACT:** States set the criteria for licensure of interior designers and other professions. Any individual who meets the requirements set forth by the state may become licensed. No national association has the authority to restrict or limit licensure or the authority to issue credentials. ~ American Society of Interior Design

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