

# HOW WILL REMOVING INTERIOR DESIGN FROM FLORIDA STATUTES IMPACT THE INTERIOR DESIGN INDUSTRY

## FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\*Excerpts from House Bill 7047 concerning Licensed Interior Designers

103 .....repealing ss.  
104 481.2131 and 481.2251, F.S., relating to the practice  
105 and regulation of interior design, registration for  
106 interior designers, and disciplinary proceedings  
107 against registered interior designers; amending s.  
108 481.201, F.S.; deleting legislative findings relating  
109 to the practice of interior design; amending s.  
110 481.203, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
111 "architecture" to include interior design; deleting  
112 the definition of the term "certificate of  
113 authorization"; defining the term "business  
114 organization"; amending s. 481.205, F.S.; renaming the  
115 Board of Architecture and Interior Design as the Board  
116 of Architecture; revising membership of the board;  
117 conforming provisions; amending ss. 481.207, 481.209,  
118 481.213, 481.215, and 481.217, F.S.; conforming  
119 provisions; amending s. 481.219, F.S.; deleting  
120 provisions permitting the practice of or offer to  
121 practice interior design through certain business  
a122 organizations; deleting provisions requiring  
123 certificates of authorization for certain business  
124 organizations offering interior design services to the  
125 public; requiring a licensee or applicant in the HB 7047

## OUR PROFESSION IS NOT BEING DEREGULATED, IT IS BEING REALLOCATED TO ARCHITECTURE

### Proposed Changes to FS 481:

- The revised definition of "Architecture" (481.203 FS) "means the rendering or offering to render services in connection with the design and construction of a structure or group of structures which have as their principal purpose human habitation or use, the utilization of space within and surrounding such structure, and interior design. These services include planning, providing preliminary study design, drawings and specifications, job-site inspection, and administration of construction contracts."

- A person may not knowingly:
  - Practice architecture unless the person is an architect or a registered architect.
  - Employ unlicensed persons to practice architecture or interior design services.
- "... the National Council of Interior Design Qualification" is stricken.

**Licensed Interior Designers:**

- You will lose all privileges extended by the state to a licensed design professional.
- You won't be able to work on commercial projects under an architect due to definition.
- You will not be able own or qualify a licensed interior design business.
- You won't be able to get professional liability insurance, which means they can't bid on government/ large commercial projects.

**Residential Designers:**

- You will have more competition as licensed interior designers turn to the residential market.
- Loss of income by manufacturers of contract materials, may cause residential materials prices to rise.
- You will lose the opportunity to become a licensed interior designer.
- Loss of opportunities to participate on commercial projects with a licensed designer or architect.

**Industry Partners:**

- You may lose income due to the loss of licensed interior designers as specifiers.
- Only architects will be able to write specifications.
- Independent commercial interior design firms may be forced to leave marketplace.
- You will not be able to provide materials directly to a commercial projects, since you are not an architect.

**Trades:**

- You may lose income due to the loss of licensed interior designers as specifiers.
- You may lose the opportunity to provide bids or services through the licensed interior designer.
- You will not be able to provide materials directly to a commercial projects unless you are an architect.
- You will not be able to specify / recommend materials directly to a commercial projects, since you are not an architect.

**Students:**

- You will have limited job opportunities as commercial interior design firms close their doors.
- Only architectural graduates will be able to practice interior design.
- Taking and passing NCIDQ will only be a standalone achievement.
- There would be no need for a 4-year degree (CIDA accredited) in Florida. Interior design programs may leave the state as a pathway to licensing is removed.

**Retail Stores providing Licensed Interior Design services:**

- Your licensed interior designers will not be able to work on any contract / commercial projects, even under an architect.
- You may have to lay-off your existing licensed interior designers due to revised definition.
- You may not be able to bid on contract / commercial projects.
- Working on model homes may become questionable, are they commercial projects prior to sale thus requiring an architect for interior design services?

**Office Furniture Dealerships:**

- You may have to replace your licensed interior designers by architects to specify, space plan or provide interior design services.
- You will not be able to provide materials directly to a commercial job unless specified by an architect.
- Your sales staff may be limited in the services they can provide.
- Purchasing agents may not be able to represent their clients, as they are not architects.

**Developers / Builders / Public Commercial Projects:**

- Commercial projects will no longer be able to engage licensed interior designers for interior design services.
- Commercial properties staff will not be able to make selections as they are not architects.
- Manufacturer sales staff will not be able to recommend materials or write specifications as they are not architects.
- Increased fees as architects typically bill at a higher rate than interior designers.

**Corporations - Healthcare, Cooperate, Commercial, Hospitality, Municipal, Educational, etc.**

- All commercial type business would have to fire staff interior designers and hire architects do same work.
- Specialty interior design firms would not be available to provide licensed interior design services.
- There is a limited pool of architects in Florida to do specialized interior design work.
- There may be an increased costs to a project, as architectural rates are higher than interior designers.

**Insurance Providers:**

- You won't be able to insure interior designers anymore, as they will no longer hold a state license.
- Project insurances purchased by interior designers will no longer be needed.
- Interior design firms may close.
- Increased chances of improper specifications being written through unlicensed activity.

**Architects:**

- Small firms may not be able to afford to employ additional architects to provide interior design services.
- Interior designers will not be able to work under an architect as an interior designer without an architecture license.
- Small firms won't be able to contract out services and compete with larger firms.

- Larger firms won't be able to bill out a current licensed interior designer at current fees.
- Firms of all sizes may have to lay off licensed interior design staff.

## JOIN US

### STAND UP FOR YOURSELVES, YOUR INDUSTRY, YOUR FRIENDS

***Please click this <http://p2a.co/OYA7hGX> or text "InteriorDesignerFL" to the number 52886. Doing so will allow you to conveniently email your representatives in the state house with one click and deliver the most impactful message possible that supports the Florida interior design profession.***