THE GREEN TAPE MEASURE

Measuring Advancement with Facts.

Interior Design Regulation

By the Decade



A Data-Driven Study

Published 2026 based on Research Collected in 2025 and 2026

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About The Green Tape Measure

Who We Are

The Green Tape Measure (GTM) is a registered, volunteer-run North Carolina non-profit located in Raleigh. We conduct industry research and educate stakeholders on the distinct scope, education, skills, and impact of an interior designer. GTM is volunteer-led and operates independently of any professional association. We speak exclusively to U.S. regulatory and educational contexts.

Our Mission

GTM is on a mission to champion the next generation of interior designers. By providing objective data, research, and educational resources to the public, we are expanding career paths and protecting public safety — ensuring the profession is recognized, regulated, and respected.

We operate on three core pillars:
1) Research: Conduct data-driven investigations into design industry standards, deregulation, and safety outcomes, proving design's impact on public health, safety, and welfare.
2) Educate: Providing resources and interactive, engaging content to the public so as to clarify the scope of the profession and the vital importance of professional regulation.
3) Advance: Advocate for fact-based career protections, professional recognition, and equitable licensing for interior designers.

GTM's tagline is simple and precise: Measuring Advancement with Facts.

Founding

GTM is the brainchild of Amy Wright, an NCIDQ-credentialed interior designer with over 15 years of commercial renovation experience, a background in set design, and a commitment to transparent, evidence-based advocacy. Originally founded in 2025 as an educational and training resource for interior designers, GTM expanded to its current mission and structure in 2026.

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About the Study

Background

GTM provided second- and third-party evidence in a separate report that interior design is a distinct profession. With distinction and clear impact on public safety, regulation is understandably a next step. However, as demonstrated in this report, interior design legislation is mostly voluntary.[1]

This report presents the history and current status of interior design legislation in the United States in order to demonstrate how and why interior design is regulated differently from allied professions, such as architecture. **We hope that this data can be used as evidence for more equitable interior design legislation in the future.**

Why Does it Matter

Failing to regulate interior design can harm:

1) **The Public**: Consumers who hire based on licensure may hire someone who is not qualified in interior design. Best case, this mistake would yield a dysfunctional interior and worse case, a health and safety disaster.
2) **Independent Designers**: If interior designers are required to have an architect's stamp on their projects, this cost will either be passed on to consumers in the form of higher fees or designers will work within architectural firms instead of owning their own practice.

With this in mind, we feel that **regulations placing greater weight on assumptions over facts are done at the expense of public safety and economic diversification.**

Questions

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

1) What does interior design regulation look like today versus when it started?
2) What is "reasonable regulation" and who does it benefit?
3) Is interior design being deregulated and/or absorbed by architecture?
4) Has support for interior design legislation grown?
5) Do independent designers support today's voluntary title acts?

As documented in these pages, interior design legislation has undergone profound changes since the 1980s.

GTM's research shows an increase in permitting privileges and voluntary title acts along with restrictions on interior designers and exemptions for other licensed professions.

[1] The Green Tape Measure. "Interior Design & Architecture: A Comparative Analysis of Education & Examination." The Green Tape Measure Foundation (2026). Available at: https://thegreentapemeasure.org/assets/docs/2025_GTM_ARCHandID-V2.pdf (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).

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Who is this Analysis For

This comparative analysis was undertaken to provide an objective, data-anchored resource for 3 audiences:

The Public — Individuals and businesses hiring design professionals need to understand how regulatory policies impact project costs and the safety, accessibility, and quality of the built environment.

Designers — Interior designers require clear, unfiltered information on how current and proposed licensing impacts their daily practices so they can confidently advocate for their livelihoods.

Regulators — State licensing boards, legislative committees, and public safety agencies that draft or enforce practice statutes need empirical evidence to determine if regulations protect public health and welfare, or if they primarily serve to limit market competition.

Methodology

GTM pulled historical regulatory data from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The data was organized into tables by decade and then further subdivided by the following categories: Failed Bill, Title Regulation, Practice Regulation, Voluntary Title, Board Parity, Restrictions, Permitting Privileges, and Exemption for other licensed professions. With exception of failed bills, which were tallied, each category in each decade received a numerical value of 0 if it did not exist or 1 if it did.

After evaluating each state, we pulled the data together into regional tables and then into a master table that totaled the numbers together by decade. This table then allowed us to create a line diagram showing clearly how interior design regulation has changed in the United States over time.

We also analyzed data publicly available from hearings for the bills included in this report. This data allowed us to present support and opposition for legislation over time.

We then compared instances in which regulation shifted to the timing of related events. We could then correlate the reasons for any significant changes in regulation.

Analysis is based on data drawn directly from public sources. We strive to be objective and any correlations or assumptions are noted as such.

GTM distinguishes between "regulation" and "voluntary". The very nature of the term "voluntary" means that the requirements set forth in the title or practice act are not actually required and therefore regulation of the overall profession does not exist.

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Section 1: State-by-State Evaluation

1.1 Mid-Atlantic

Delaware

GTM could not find any attempt to regulate "interior design" directly in Delaware, including any failed bills.

However, interior design is already indirectly regulated under the state's Title 24 300 Board of Architecture:

- The definition of "Health, Safety, and Welfare Subjects" includes "Interiors"
- The definition of "Safety" covers "compliance with interior finish requirements."
- The scope of the "Practice of Architecture" includes "space planning and programming, and interior design."[2]

Yet, when looking up individual license requirements in Delaware, checking "Interior Designer" under "Individual Licenses," yields the following result: "Interior Design licensure is not required on the State level in Delaware."[3]

Together, this implies that an architect is required for interior design work in Delaware. Therefore, in the chart below, we are adding a scope restriction and an architect exemption in the state of Delaware.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1.1.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in Delaware

[2] Delaware.gov. "Division of Professional Regulation: 300 Board of Architects." Delaware.gov (2026). Available at: https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title24/300.shtml (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).
[3] Harbor Compliance. "Delaware Architecture Industry Licensing." Harbor Compliance (2026). Available at: https://www.harborcompliance.com/delaware-architecture-license Accessed 18 Jul 2026).

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District of Columbia

With its passage in 1986, the District of Columbia was one of the earliest jurisdictions in the United States to regulate interior design.

However, in 1999, professional parity with architecture was threatened as the independent interior design board was abolished and oversight of interior design was moved to the Board of Architecture. To this day, interior designers on this board remain outnumbered by architects. In addition, **4 members represent architects and 4 is also a quorum**.[4] [5]

While DC's definition of interior design is extensive, it was countered in 1999 by architecture's definition, which includes "the space within" language, by explicit exemptions for architects, and by simultaneously stating that interior design does "not include the practice of architecture." This is a pattern of legislation that will be presented throughout this report.[6] [7]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	1	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Practice	1	1	1	1	1
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1.1.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in DC

[4] Council of the District of Columbia. "D.C. Law 6-172: D.C. Interior Designer Licensure Act of 1986." Council of the District of Columbia (2026). Available at: https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/docs/6-172.pdf (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).
[5] Council of the District of Columbia. "§ 47-2853.06. Establishment of boards." Council of the District of Columbia (2026). Available at: https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/47-2853.06 (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).
[6] DC.gov. "Chapter: 17-32 Interior Designers." DC.gov (2026). Available at: https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=17-32 (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).
[7] Council of the District of Columbia. "§ 47-2853.61. Scope of practice for architects." Council of the District of Columbia (2026). Available at: https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/47-2853.61 (Accessed 18 Jul 2026).

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Maryland

Maryland has had a voluntary interior design title law since 1991 without any major alterations. We have noted that the following has remained in place since the law commenced:

- The interior design board of 7 members includes one architect. Since the architecture board does not reciprocate and include an interior designer on its board, we are not including Maryland as a state with board parity.
- The definition of interior design broadly excludes engineering and architectural interior construction, related building systems, and anything construed as architecture or engineering.
- **The law explicitly prohibits interior designers from creating drawings that are "required to be filed with any county or municipality."** [8]

Despite requiring interior designers to seal and sign their drawings before handoff to an architect, Maryland interior designers are not allowed to directly submit drawings for permit. This system implies that interior designers are responsible for their work but without any of the benefits of that responsibility.[9]

In addition, Maryland's architecture law requires an architect for larger projects exceeding $10,000 in costs and/or impacting any building systems.[10]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.1.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Maryland

[8] The Maryland State Archives. "1991 Laws of Maryland: Ch. 663." Maryland.gov (2026). Available at: https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000806/pdf/am806--3568.pdf (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[9] Maryland Department of Labor. "Maryland Certified Interior Act." Maryland.gov (2026). Available at: https://labor.maryland.gov/license/law/cid-mdcertifiedinterioract.pdf (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[10] Statutes. "Article - Business Occupations and Professions §3-103." Maryland General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gbo&section=3-103&enactments=false (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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New Jersey

New Jersey House Bill A565 "Interior Designers Certifications Act" passed in 2002 and enacted a voluntary title act for interior designers. Its definition of "interior design services" has maintained that the designer's scope of work includes outlet and switch locations but prohibits anything related to or affecting building systems.[11]

Like some other states, CIDs in New Jersey must sign their drawings before handoff to an architect but they cannot directly submit their drawings for a building permit.[12]

New Jersey's architecture law goes a step further with restrictions on interior designers by stating within its exemptions that interior design services do not need an architect as long as it does not affect egress, life safety, or building systems - core practice areas for interior designers in commercial spaces.[13]

Lastly, New Jersey's Board of Architects which includes oversight of any interior design regulation has **seven members, 5 of whom are registered architects**.[14]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.1.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in New Jersey

[11] NJ State Law Library. "45:3-31 Legislative History Checklist." NJ State Law Library (2026). Available at: https://repo.njstatelib.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b4f2c2d4-5890-4651-a545-22c1c2314105/content (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[12] Justia Regulations. "New Jersey Administrative Code Section 13:27-9.15." Justia Regulations (2026). Available at: https://regulations.justia.com/states/new-jersey/title-13/chapter-27/subchapter-9/section-13-27-9-8/ (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[13] Justia Regulations. "New Jersey Administrative Code Section 13:27-3.3." Justia Regulations (2026). Available at: https://regulations.justia.com/states/new-jersey/title-13/chapter-27/subchapter-3/section-13-27-3-3/ (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[14] New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. "New Jersey State Board of Architects." State of New Jersey (2026). Available at: https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/arch/Pages/members.aspx (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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New York

In 1990, New York became the tenth jurisdiction in the United States to pass interior design legislation. However, it was and has remained a voluntary title act without permitting privileges.[15]

Though we could not locate a copy of the original 1990 bill, today's law implies that there has been very little change to it as it explicitly excludes within its "Definition of practice of interior design" interior construction perceived as within the scope of architecture and engineering, including building systems.[16]

Likewise, the interior design board itself does not necessarily favor interior designers as it is composed of 2 architects and 1 engineer in addition to the **4 interior designers, 2 of whom have only worked at architecture firms**.[17]

At the time of this writing, the only proposed bill, Assembly Bill A4840A, has been voted in favor and updates the education requirements to reflect the latest required by a national interior design exam.[18]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.1.5 — Interior Design Regulation History in New York

[15] Brown, Patricia Leigh. "A Legal Leg for Designers." The New York Times, 2 Aug 1990. Available at: https://www.nytimes.com/1990/08/02/garden/a-legal-leg-for-designers.html (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[16] New York State Education Department. "Article 161, Interior Design." University of the State of New York (2026). Available at: https://www.op.nysed.gov/professions/interior-design/laws-rules-regulations/article-161 (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[17] Statutory Composition & Current Membership. "Interior Design." New York State Education Department (2026). Available at: https://www.op.nysed.gov/boards/statutory-composition-current-membership (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[18] The New York State Senate. "Assembly Bill A4840A." New York State Senate (2026). Available at: https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/A4840/amendment/A (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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Pennsylvania

In 2024, Pennsylvania amended their existing Architects License Law to include a voluntary title act for interior designers. However, the law appears to sharply favor architects in the following ways:

- A definition of “interior design services” that broadly excludes the “practice of architecture” and building systems.
- An equally broad definition of the “practice of architecture” that includes the “spaces within” language.
- A board of architects that recognizes the addition of interior design through only one interior design board member while the seven board members who are architects are defined as a quorum, effectively allowing decisions regarding interior design legislation to be made by architects alone.
- **Architects can be issued a CID based on their license alone and without any fees** if they prove competence in interior design, as determined by this board of architects.
- An explicit reminder that nothing in the statute prohibits “an architect from offering to provide or providing interior design services.”

The statute also continues to imply that architects are required for any alterations outside of one- and two-family dwellings, especially in situations involving egress.[19]

Prior to making significant compromises with AIA Pennsylvania that led to the current 2024 legislation, there were previous attempts by the Interior Design Legislative Coalition of Pennsylvania (IDLCPA) to pass interior design regulation.[20] [21]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	1	1	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.1.6 — Interior Design Regulation History in Pennsylvania

[19] State Architects Licensure Board. “1982 Act 281.” Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2026). Available at: https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information/view-statute?txtType=PDF&SessYr=1982&ActNum=0281.&SessInd=0 (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[20] IDLCPA. “About.” IDLCPA (2026). Available at: https://www.idlcpa.org/about (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[21] Frear, Susan. “Architects and Interior Designers Pass Historic Legislation.” AIA Pennsylvania, 20 Nov 2024. Available at: https://aiapa.org/architects-and-interior-designers-pass-historic-legislation/ (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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Regional Summary

As revealed by the table below, over time, in the Mid-Atlantic board parity has been lost or overlooked while exemptions for architects, practice restrictions, and voluntary title acts have increased.

Only one state in the region has added permitting privileges and this was not recent. However, these privileges were added at an apparent cost of scope infringement. It is unknown at this time if designers in this jurisdiction actually use their permitting privileges or not.

Only one jurisdiction actually regulates the title and practice of interior design in the entire mid-atlantic. But, as presented on the previous pages, with regulation there have been restrictions on interior designers' ability to practice independently of an architect.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	3	3	3	4
Board Parity	1	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	1	1	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Practice	1	1	1	1	1
Scope Restrictions	1	4	5	5	6
Voluntary - Title	0	2	3	3	4

Table 1.1.7 — Interior Design Regulation History in the Mid-Atlantic

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1.2 Midwest

Illinois

Regulation of interior design in Illinois began in 1993 and restricted the titles “Interior Designer” and “Residential Interior Designer” to those that have passed the NCIDQ or the CQRID. Additional features of the bill included:

- A one year transition period that waived examination requirements for experience.
- A board of 5 interior designers and 1 public member.
- A definition that covered work “within and surrounding interior spaces.”
- Exemptions for licensed architects.
- Prohibited mechanical, electrical, life safety, architecture, or engineering work.[22]

In the 2010s, revised legislation eliminated any residential interior design regulation and officially made the law voluntary by securing the title “registered interior designer.”[23]

2022 saw the following updates:

- Defining the “practice of registered interior design.”
- Prohibiting work related to architecture, building systems, and life safety.
- **Reduction of interior designers on the board to 4.**
- Permitting privileges that allow registered designers to compile and lead multi-disciplinary drawings (unless architects are involved).[24]

Based on the provided witness slips, below is a count of those who supported and opposed 2022’s HB 4715 with duplicate entries on the public website removed. On the next page is a summary of regulation history in Illinois.[25]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	216	9
Interior Design	80	0
Other	154	3

Table 1.2.1.1 — Illinois 2022 HB 4715 Proponents & Opponents

[22] Justia U.S. Law. “2005 Illinois Code - Chapter 225 Professions and Occupations 225 ILCS 310/ Interior Design Title Act.” Justia (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/illinois/2005/chapter24/1341.html (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[23] Illinois General Assembly. “Public Act 096-1334.” ILGA.gov (2026). Available at: https://www.ilga.gov/ftp/Public%20Acts/96/096-1334.htm (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[24] Illinois General Assembly. “224 ILCS 310/ Registered Interior Designers Act” ILGA.gov (2026). Available at: https://ilga.gov/Legislation/ILCS/Articles?ActID=1341&ChapAct=225 ILCS 310/&ChapterID=24&ChapterName=PROFESSIONS%20AND%20OCCUPATIONS&ActName=Interior%20Design%20Title%20Act. (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[25] Witness Slips. “Legislation: HB4715.” Illinois General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus/WitnessSlips?GAID=16&DocNum=4715&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=139067&SessionID=110 (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	1	1	1	1
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	1	1

Table 1.2.1.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Illinois

Indiana

In 2009, Indiana passed HEA 1573 initiating the voluntary regulation of the title "Registered Interior Designer" with oversight by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA). The law has remained unchanged and:

- **Prohibits interior designers from submitting drawings for plan check and permit.**
- Restricts designers from work related to building systems, architecture, or engineering.
- Exempts architects and engineers from all requirements.
- Explicitly states that it does not regulate the practice of interior design.[26]

Prior to 2009, SEA 490 attempted to regulate interior design in 2007 but was vetoed by the governor due to lack of evidence of necessity.[27]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.2.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Indiana

[26] Indiana General Assembly 2026 Session. "Article 20.7. Interior Designers." Indiana Statehouse (2026). Available at: https://iga.in.gov/laws/2026/ic/titles/25#25-20.7 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[27] IN.gov. "SEA_490_Veto_)Message.pdf." State of Indiana (2026). Available at: https://www.in.gov/governorhistory/mitchdaniels/files/SEA_490_Veto_Message.pdf (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).

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Iowa

In 2005, Iowa passed SF 405 after HF 605 failed a few years earlier and included:

- An interior design board consisting of 5 interior designers and 2 public members.
- "Registered Interior Designer" title protection.
- Architects and engineers exemptions.
- A definition of "Interior Design" prohibiting work related to mechanical systems, architecture, or engineering.[28] [29]

In 2021, SF 445 attempted and failed to update the definition of interior design.[30]

The current legislation based on the 2023 bill SF 135 includes:

- Permitting privileges.
- **Replacement of the definition of "Interior Design" with an expanded definition of "Registered Interior Design."**
- Broad restrictions on building systems, life safety, architecture, and engineering.
- Continuance of the existing board structure, protection of the title "Registered Interior Designer," and architecture and engineering exemptions.[31]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	1	1	1
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	1
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.2.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Iowa

[28] Vilsack, Governor Thomas J. "Bill Information: SF 405." The Iowa Legislature, 4 May 2005. Available at: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=81&ba=SF%20405 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[29] Bill History. "House File 605." The Iowa Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/billHistory?ga=80&billName=HF605 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[30] Cournoyer. "Senate File 445 - Introduced." The Iowa Legislature, 23 Feb 2021. Available at: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=89&ba=SF%20445 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[31] Iowa Code. "2025 Title XIII Chapter 544C Registered Interior Designers." The Iowa Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=544C&year=2025 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).

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Kansas

Kansas does not have any active interior design legislation nor has there been any attempt to regulate the profession. However, **HB 2798 is attempting to add "interior design services" to the definition of "Architectural Services"** for university work.[32] [33]

Michigan

Michigan provided an exemption for interior designers with the passage of Public Act 250 in 1998. Under the board of architects, it created an advisory subcommittee on interior design, defined "interior designer," and prohibited designers from work impacting building systems. **In 2014, the legislation was repealed with the passage of SB 479.**[34] [35]

There have been several failed attempts to improve or reintroduce legislation:

- 2004 HB 6052: Interior design title and practice regulation, permitting privileges.[36]
- 2005 HB 4311 & 2009 SB 974: Same as HB 6052 plus an Interior Design Board.[37] [38]
- 2024 HB 5960 & 2025 HB 5142: Proposed an Interior Design Board, an expanded definition of the "Practice of Interior Design," broad restrictions (architecture, engineering, and building systems), and permitting privileges.[39] [40]

State architecture law also implies that an architect is required for any commercial work.[41]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	2	0	2
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.2.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in Michigan

[32] Session of 2026. "House Bill No. 2798." Kansas Legislature 2026 (2026). Available at: https://www.kslegislature.gov/b2025_26/bills/download/?apn=b2025_26/year2/ready_for_publication/hb_2798/hb2798_00_0000.pdf (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[33] 2026 Kansas Statutes. "Article 70 - State Board of Technical Professions." Kansas Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.kslegislature.gov/b2025_26/laws/074_000_0000_chapter/074_070_0000_article/074_070_0003_section/074_070_0003_k/ (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[34] Michigan Compiled Laws. "House Bill 4535 of 1997." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=1997-HB-4535 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[35] Michigan Votes. "2013 Senate Bill 479." Mackinac Center for Public Policy (2026). Available at: https://www.michiganvotes.org/legislation/2013/senate/bill-479 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[36] Michigan Compiled Laws. "House Bill 6052 of 2004." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2004-HB-6052 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[37] Michigan Compiled Laws."House Bill 4311 of 2005." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2005-HB-4311 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[38] Michigan Compiled Laws. "Senate Bill 974 of 2009." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2009-SB-0974 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[39] Michigan Compiled Laws. "House Bill 5960 of 2024." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2024-HB-5960 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[40] Michigan Compiled Laws. "House Bill 5142 of 2025." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Bills/Bill?ObjectName=2025-HB-5142 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[41] Michigan Compiled Laws. "MCL - Section 339.2012." Michigan Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-339-2012 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

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Minnesota

In 1992, Chapter 507 enacted interior design legislation in Minnesota. It included:

- "Certified Interior Designer" title protection and definition covering public spaces.
- Permitting privileges.
- Exemption for architects.
- Prohibits designers from work related to architecture or engineering.
- Added one interior designer to an existing board of 3 architects, 5 engineers, and 2 land surveyors.[42]

In 2008 bill SF 376 failed to establish a voluntary "Licensed Interior Designer" framework.[43]

The current legislation (as of 2025) has updated the board composition as follows: 3 architects, 5 engineers, 2 landscape architects, 2 land surveyors, 2 interior designers, 2 geoscientists, and 5 public members.[44]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.2.5 — Interior Design Regulation History in Minnesota

[42] Minnesota Session Laws - 1992 Regular Session. "Chapter 507." Minnesota Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/1992/0/507/ (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[43] 86th Legislature (2009-2010). "SF 376." Minnesota Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/86/2009/0/SF/376/versions/latest/ (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[44] 2021 Minnesota Statutes. "Chapter 326 Employments Licensed By State." Minnesota Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2021/cite/326 (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).

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Missouri

In 1998, after a failed attempt 4 years earlier, Missouri passed a title law that included:

- Protection of the title "Registered Interior Designer."
- A definition of interior design that excluded building systems work outside of fixtures specifications and locations.
- Oversight by an Interior Design Council that included 4 interior designers and 1 public member.
- Exemption for architects.[45] [46]

In 2010, HB No. 1998 failed to overturn interior design legislation.[47]

Recently, SB 1233 passed with the following significant modifications:

- Protection of the title "Licensed Interior Designer."
- Definition of "Practice of Licensed Interior Design" that prohibits changes in the number of exits from a space, architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, building systems, and life safety.
- **Abolished the Interior Design Council**.
- Existing board's composition updated: 1 chairperson, 3 architects, 4 engineers, 3 land surveyors, 3 landscape architects, 2 interior designers, and 1 public member.
- Permitting privileges.
- Exemptions for architects.[48]

HB 2353 was later incorporated into Senate Bill 1233. Below are the results of witness testimonies for the hearing on February 25, 2026, followed by a summary of regulation in the state. AIA took a neutral stance on this bill.[49]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	13	3
Interior Design	2	0
Other	3	1

Table 1.2.6.1 — Missouri 2026 HB 2353 Proponents & Opponents (February 25, 2026 hearing)

[45] Second Regular Session: 88th General Assembly. "Senate Bill No. 762." Missouri Senate (2026). Available at: https://www.senate.mo.gov/96info/bltext/intro/SB762.htm (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[46] Carpenter II, Dick M. "Regulation through titling laws: A case study of occupational regulation." Wiley Online Library, 26 Aug 2008. Available at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1748-5991.2008.00041.x (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[47] Second Regular Session: 95th General Assembly. "House Bill No. 1998." Missouri House of Representatives (2026). Available at: https://house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills101/billpdf/intro/HB1998I.PDF (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[48] Second Regular Session: 103rd General Assembly: "Senate Bill No.1233." Missouri Senate (2026). Available at: https://www.senate.mo.gov/26info/pdf-bill/tat/SB1233.pdf (Accessed 23 Aug 2026).
[49] Missouri House of Representatives. "Witness Appearance Forms: HB 2353." Missouri House of Representatives (2026). Available at: https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills261/witnesses/HB2353Testimony2-25.pdf (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	1	1	1	0
Failed Bill	0	1	0	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.2.6.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Missouri

Nebraska

In 2024, Nebraska passed its "Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act" with oversight by the State Treasury. This law intends to protect the title "Registered Interior Designer" and provide RIDs with the ability to submit their own drawings for plan check. The legislation prohibits interior designers from the following:

- Adding additional exits from spaces
- Anything that could constitute engineering or architecture
- **Anything, including interior wallcoverings and trim, that are on exterior walls**
- Building systems and life safety

With these restrictions, we believe the law becomes potentially contradictory. For example, RIDs are permitted to prepare life safety plans and alter the exit access component of an egress system, which by definition includes exits from spaces.[50]

Below outlines those who provided verbal testimonies for LB 471 on February 9, 2023.[51]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	2	10
Interior Design	1	0
Other	2	0

Table 1.2.7.1 — Nebraska 2023 LB 471 Proponents & Opponents (February 9, 2023 hearing)

[50] Revised Statutes. "71-6103." Nebraska Legislature (2026). Available at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=71-6103 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

[51] Nebraska Legislature. "Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office." Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 9 Feb 2023. Available at: https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Transcripts/Government/2023-02-09.pdf (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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Interior designers are further restricted under the state's architecture law which requires an architect for projects impacting safety and/or exceeding 5,000 square feet.[52]

Previous attempts to regulate interior design in Nebraska include:

- 2020 LB 1068: This bill proposed voluntary registration and permitting privileges but without the practice restrictions or architect exemption.[53]
- 2021 LB 250: This attempt matched LB 1068 except it added a broad practice restriction on anything that could constitute engineering.[54]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	2
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.2.7.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Nebraska

North Dakota

North Dakota does not currently regulate interior design nor has there been any significant attempt to do so. However, as of 2011, **architects are required for projects that are a commercial occupancy**, such as business or assembly.[55]

[52] Bills. "Nebraska Revised Statute 81-3449." Nebraska Legislature (2026). Available at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=81-3449 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[53] Bills. "LB1068 - Adopt the Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act." Nebraska Legislature (2026). Available at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/106/PDF/Intro/LB1068.pdf (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[54] Bills. "LB250 - Adopt the Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act." Nebraska Legislature (2026). Available at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/Intro/LB250.pdf (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[55] Century Code. "Chapter 43-03 Architects and Landscape Architects." North Dakota Legislative Council (2026). Available at: https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t43c03.pdf#nameddest=43-03-02 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

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Ohio

Ohio does not regulate interior design. However, in 2018 and 2019 House Bills 504 and 402 proposed voluntary title legislation including an **Interior Design Examiners Board, that would include an architect or engineer**, to oversee Certified Interior Designers. Both bills included practice restrictions related to life safety and building systems.[56] [57]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	0	2	0

Table 1.2.8 — Interior Design Regulation History in Ohio

South Dakota

Though there has been no attempt to regulate interior design in South Dakota, architecture law requires a licensed architect on commercial projects exceeding an occupancy-based square footage (such as 4,000 square feet for commercial office). In addition, **the state's definition of the "practice of architecture" includes interior design**. Therefore, since state law can be interpreted as requiring an architect for interior design work, we are adding this as a scope restriction.[58] [59]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.2.9 — Interior Design Regulation History in South Dakota

Wisconsin

Under Wisconsin's Statute §15.405(2), the board is unique as it is **currently the only multi-disciplinary board in the United States that gives interior designers equal seats on the board**. However, registered interior designers are restricted from:

- Changing the number of exits from a space
- Work that impacts building systems or life safety
- Work that could be interpreted as architecture or engineering

As seen with other states, the restrictions on exits may impede a designer's allowance to alter the exit access portion of the egress system. Though architects can register with their license alone, they must demonstrate at least 6 years of interior design experience. While RIDs can submit their plans to the building department, any project existing 50,000 cubic feet requires an architect or engineer.[60]

[56] Legislation. "House Bill 504." The Ohio Legislature (2026). Available at: https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_132/legislation/hb504/02_PH/pdf/ (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[57] Legislation. "House Bill 402." The Ohio Legislature (2026). Available at: https://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/api/v2/general_assembly_133/legislation/hb402/00_IN/pdf/ (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[58] Codified Laws. "36-18A-9. Certain persons exempt from provisions of chapter." South Dakota Legislature (2026). Available at: https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/36-18A-9 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[59] Codified Laws. "36-18A-2. Practice of architecture defined." South Dakota Legislature (2026). Available at: https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/36-18A-2 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[60] Statutes. "Chapter 443." Wisconsin State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/443 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

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An attempt to modernize the law failed in the late 2010s. Under 2019's AB 324, the definition of "interior design" would have been updated to include "interior life safety" and remove the blanket restriction for anything constituting architecture or engineering. ASID Wisconsin supported this bill while AIA and a number of architects opposed it.[61] [62]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	0	6
Interior Design	0	0
Other	0	0

Table 1.2.10.1 — Wisconsin 2019 AB 324 Proponents & Opponents (February 13, 2020 hearing)

The original legislation, the 1995 Wisconsin Act 322, protected the title "Registered Interior Designer" and required passage of the NCIDQ. However, permitting privileges and the current board makeup were only recently added in 2022.[63]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	1
Failed Bill	0	0	0	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.2.10.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Wisconsin

[61] Proposals. "2019 Assembly Bill 324." Wisconsin State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab324.pdf (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[62] AB 324. "Hearing Testimony and Materials." Wisconsin State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/hearing_testimony_and_materials/2019/ab324/ab0324_2020_02_13.pdf (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).
[63] Acts. "1995 Wisconsin Act 322." Wisconsin State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1995/related/acts/322 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

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Regional Summary

As shown by the data below, the Midwest has seen an increase in bill attempts in recent decades. There has also been a significant increase this decade in permitting privileges but this has been countered with an even greater increase in exemptions for architects and restrictions on interior design practice.

Only one state briefly had title regulation and no jurisdiction achieved practice regulation. **Today, the region is characterized by voluntary title acts only.**

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Architect Exemption	0	4	6	6	7
Board Parity	0	2	3	3	3
Failed Bill	0	1	5	4	5
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	6
Regulation - Title	0	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	6	8	8	9
Voluntary - Title	0	3	5	6	7

Table 1.2.11 — Interior Design Regulation History in the Midwest

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1.3 New England

Connecticut

In 1983, Connecticut passed interior design regulation restricting the title "Interior Designer" to those that have passed the NCIDQ, are an architect, or have sufficient experience. In 1992, the state expanded the definition of "interior design" to work associated with "nonload-bearing interior construction." Beginning in 1993, interior designers were allowed to submit their own plans for plan check and permit.[64]

In 2011, the state's architecture law was updated to require an architect for projects of certain occupancies (i.e. assembly) and for projects exceeding 5,000 square feet.[65]

In 2013, Connecticut changed the law to a voluntary title act, protecting the title "Registered Interior Designer." This update follows a 2009 ruling of the previous law as unconstitutional.[66] [67]

The law has remained largely unchanged since 2013 with exception of HB 5222. This bill became effective in mid-2026 and **explicitly allows licensed architects to perform interior design work without registering**.[68]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	1	1

Table 1.3.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in Connecticut

[64] Duffy, Daniel. "OLR Research Report." Connecticut General Assembly, 7 Nov 1995. Available at: https://www.cga.ct.gov/PS95/rpt/olr/htm/95-R-1249.htm (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[65] Chapter 390 Architects. "Sec. 20-298. Exempted Activities." Connecticut General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/pub/chap_390.htm#sec_20-298 (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[66] State of Connecticut. "Public Act No. 13-110." Connecticut General Assembly, 6 Jun 2013. Available at: https://www.cga.ct.gov/2013/ACT/PA/2013PA-00110-R00HB-06404-PA.htm (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).
[67] Institute for Justice. "Connecticut Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/susan-roberts-v-jerry-farrell/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[68] State of Connecticut. "Public Act No. 26-100." Connecticut General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.cga.ct.gov/2026/act/Pa/pdf/2026PA-00100-R00HB-05222-PA.PDF (Accessed 6 Sept 2026).

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Maine

In 1993, Maine passed an exception for interior designers within its architecture law explicitly allowing interior designers to bypass the requirement for an architect for nonstructural and nonload bearing interiors work. It also included protection of the voluntary title "Certified Interior Designer." However, **architects remain required for work over a certain square footage, cost, and/or occupancy**.[69]

As of at least 2007, the board overseeing interior design has consisted of 5 architects, 1 landscape architect, 1 interior designer, and 2 public members. Also in 2007, the law stated "certified" interior designers are "licensed" without updating the title. Despite being "licensed," certified interior designers in Maine must sign their drawings in order to retain responsibility for their work but they are not provided with a stamp or seal and cannot submit drawings for plan check and permit.[70] [71] [72] [73]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.3.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Maine

[69] Maine Revised Statutes. "32 §226 Exceptions." Maine State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/32/title32sec226.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[70] Maine Revised Statutes. "32 §211 Membership; term." Maine State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes//32/title32sec211.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[71] Maine Revised Statutes. "32 §224. License." Maine State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes//32/title32sec224.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[72] Maine Revised Statutes. "32 §225. Seal." Maine State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes//32/title32sec225.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[73] Maine Revised Statutes. "32 §225-A. Certified signature." Maine State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes//32/title32sec225-A.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).

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Massachusetts

Massachusetts does not currently regulate interior design. However, the following have been attempts to do so:

- 2009 H.262: Attempted to pass regulation of the voluntary title "Certified Interior Designer."[74]
- 2013 H.2832: A bill that would have allowed interior designers to participate in bidding for state contracts for interior design work.[75]
- 2025 H.324: Proposed an updated architecture board that included an equal count of architects and interior designers. It also would have regulated commercial interior design while prohibiting interior designers from designing nonload bearing partitions requiring kickbacks or anything impacting building systems.[76]
- 2026 S.3107: This bill was similar to H.324 in that it would have regulated commercial interior design only. However, only one interior designer would be on the board while architects and engineers would each gain a seat. It continued to exclude interior designers from work impacting building systems. Architects were also explicitly exempted from meeting its requirements.[77]

Regardless of any interior design regulation, **state law requires an architect when the alteration exceeds 35,000 cubic feet of enclosed space**.[78]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	1	1	2

Table 1.3.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Massachusetts

[74] The 186th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Bill H.262." The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2026). Available at: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/186/House/H262 (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[75] The 188th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Bill H.2832." The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2026). Available at: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/H2832 (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[76] The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Bill H.324." The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2026). Available at: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H324 (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[77] The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Bill S.3107." The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2026). Available at: https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S3107 (Accessed 13 Sept 2026)
[78] The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. "Section 60L." The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2026). Available at: https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXVI/Chapter112/Section60L (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).

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New Hampshire

New Hampshire does not currently regulate interior design. However, 2007's HB 881 was a significant attempt to do so. It featured the following:

- A non-voluntary title and practice act protecting the title "interior designer" and the practice of "interior design."
- A board of interior designers
- A definition of interior design that broadly excluded building systems, architecture, and engineering.
- Permitting privileges
- Exemption for architects[79]

Current state law requires an architect for projects greater than 4,000 square feet, of certain occupancies (i.e. assembly, education, institutional), or located in buildings constructed of concrete or steel. As a result, **commercial projects of any size typically require an architect.**[80]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	0

Table 1.3.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in New Hampshire

[79] 2007 Session. "HB 881-FN - As Introduced." The General Court of New Hampshire (2026). Available at: https://gc.nh.gov/legislation/2007/HB0881.html (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[80] Title XXX Occupations and Professions. "Chapter 310-A." The General Court of New Hampshire (2026). Available at: https://www.gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/XXX/310-A/310-A-52.htm (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).

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Rhode Island

Rhode Island has not yet passed any form of interior design regulation. The following have been significant attempts to do so:

- 2005 S102: Attempted to regulate the title "interior designer" and the practice of "interior design." It detailed a comprehensive scope of interior design, including the ability to submit drawings for plan check and permit. The bill proposed oversight by an interior design board. It also included a practice exemption for architects.[81]
- 2026 H7842 (S2518): This bill attempted to establish a voluntary title act along with a definition of "registered interior design" practice and permitting privileges. It prohibited RIDs from work related to building systems, life safety, or anything that could be considered architecture or engineering. It exempted architects. However, it did propose a dedicated interior design board for oversight.[82]

The state's architecture laws **require an architect for any work outside of a single- or two-family house or a farm building.**[83]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	1

Table 1.3.5 — Interior Design Regulation History in Rhode Island

Vermont

Vermont does not regulate interior design nor has there been any significant attempt to do so. However, **an architect is required for commercial projects**.[84]

[81] State of Rhode Island. "2005 S 102 Substitute A as Amended." State of Rhode Island General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText05/SenateText05/S0102Aaa.pdf (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[82] State of Rhode Island. "2026 H 7842." State of Rhode Island General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText26/HouseText26/H7842.htm (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[83] Statutes. "Title 5 Businesses and Professions Chapter 1 Architects." State of Rhode Island General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://webserver.rilegislature.gov//Statutes/TITLE5/5-1/5-1-14.htm (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).
[84] The Vermont Statutes Online. "Title 26: Professions and Occupations Chapter 3: Architects." Vermont General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/26/003 (Accessed 13 Sept 2026).

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Regional Summary

Only one state in New England has successfully regulated the title "interior designer," but it converted this into a voluntary title act in the 2010s. With exception of one other state with a voluntary title act, **the majority of New England does not regulate interior design**.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	3	1	3
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	2	2
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	2	2

Table 1.3.6 — Interior Design Regulation History in New England

1.4 Northwest

Idaho

Commencing on July 1, 2026, Idaho implemented a voluntary interior design title act with permitting privileges. This bill displays several characteristics that may prevent interior designers from practicing independently:

- Regulation of a title with the wording "certified" may prompt plan checkers to reject any drawing submissions by CIDs as normally the "Professional in Responsible Charge" must be "registered" or "licensed."
- The board overseeing interior designers is composed of zero interior designers. Decisions concerning interior design are made by architects.
- There are statewide restrictions prohibiting scope normally within the practice of interior design, including life safety and building systems.
- The blanket restriction on anything constituting the "practice of professional engineering or architecture" leaves much open to interpretation.[85]

[85] 2026 Legislation. "House Bill 790." Idaho Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2026/legislation/H0790.pdf (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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Below is testimony data from the March 9, 2026 hearing:[86]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	4	3
Interior Design	1	0
Other	0	0

Table 1.4.1.1 — Idaho 2026 H 790 Proponents & Opponents (March 9, 2026 hearing)

In addition, under architecture law, **any alteration affecting public health or safety requires an architect**.[87]

Some jurisdictions within Idaho, such as Garden City, further restrict interior designers based on occupancy type and square footage.[88]

GTM could not find any failed interior design bills prior to the one passed in 2026.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.4.1.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Idaho

Montana

At this time, **Montana does not have any current or proposed regulation in place** for interior designers. In addition, GTM could not find any data on past attempts at legislation.

[86] Anderson, Michelle A. "Minutes: House Business Committee." Idaho Legislature, 9 Mar 2026. Available at: https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2026/standingcommittees/260309_hbus_0130PM-Minutes.pdf (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).
[87] Idaho Statutes. "Title 54 Chapter 3 Architects 54-306." Idaho Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title54/T54CH3/SECT54-306/ (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[88] Garden City Idaho. "Design Professional Requirements." Garden City Idaho (2026). Available at: https://gardencityidaho.org/design-professional-requirements/ (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).

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Oregon

Though no interior design legislation has yet been passed in Oregon, the following are significant past attempts:

- 2011 HB 2491 outlined measures to regulate the practice of interior design, require registration, and establish an independent Board of Interior Design. It also would have provided interior designers with permitting privileges.[89]

- 2012 SB 1521 focused on regulating commercial interior design and while it still proposed an independent interior design board, it required one member to be an architect. The bill offered permitting privileges to interior designers and regulated the title "Registered Interior Designer."[90]

- 2017 HB 2153A sought to regulate the title "Certified Interior Designer" and oversight would have fallen on the Department of Consumer and Business Services, instead of an independent interior design board. It also explicitly stated that certification was voluntary and commercial interior designers could continue to practice without being certified. It would have placed significant restrictions on independent certified designers, including a 4,000 square foot cap. The AIA opposed the bill while several architects individually supported it.[91] [92]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	9	1
Interior Design	2	0
Other	1	1

Table 1.4.2.1 — Oregon 2017 HB 2153A Proponents & Opponents (February 8, 2017 hearing)

[89] 76th Oregon Legislative Assembly 2011 Regular Session. "House Bill 2491." Oregon Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2011R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2491 (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[90] 76th Oregon Legislative Assembly 2012 Regular Session. "Senate Bill 1521." Oregon Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2012R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1521/Introduced (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[91] 79th Oregon Legislative Assembly 2017 Regular Session. "A-Engrossed House Bill 2153." Oregon Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2153/A-Engrossed (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[92] 2017 Regular Session. "HB 2153 A: Testimony." Oregon State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2017R1/Measures/Testimony/HB2153 (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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- 2025 HB 2141 was an attempted voluntary title act, specifically regulating "registered commercial interior designer." Oversight would have been under the existing State Board of Architect Examiners with 5 architects outnumbering 3 interior designers. As defined, "commercial interior design" was in conflict with the "Practice of Architecture" as both covered interiors. The bill also explicitly gave architects control over the construction phase. While it detailed permitting privileges for registered designers, it left its enforcement up to the jurisdiction. The **4,000 square foot cap was still implied under architect exemptions**. AIA opposed the bill while NCARB and the State Board of Architect Examiners took neutral positions.[93] [94]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	155	6
Interior Design	14	0
Other	42	2

Table 1.4.2.2 — Oregon 2025 HB 2141 Proponents & Opponents (March 25, 2025 hearing)

Overall, Oregon has had more attempts at regulation in the 2010s than the 2020s, but much more support from the AEC industry in the current decade.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	0	3	1

Table 1.4.2.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Oregon

[93] 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly 2025 Regular Session. "House Bill 2141." Oregon Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025r1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2141/Introduced (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[94] 2025 Regular Session. "HB 2141: Testimony." Oregon State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025r1/Measures/Testimony/HB2141 (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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Washington

Like Oregon, several attempts have been made to pass interior design legislation in Washington:

- 2004 HB 2513 sought to regulate the title “Interior Designer” via registration while still allowing anyone to practice interior design. It specified permitting privileges while also prohibiting interior designers from affecting any building systems or anything that could be included under architecture or engineering. Recorded testimonies showed opposition from specifically kitchen and bath designers.[95] [96]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	0	0
Interior Design	1	5
Other	1	0

Table 1.4.3.1 — Washington 2004 HB 2513 Proponents & Opponents (February 25, 2004 hearing)

- 2005 SB 5754 was created to protect the title “Registered Interior Designer.” It explicitly stated that it would not restrict the practice of interior design or use of the title “Interior Designer.”[97]

- 2009 SB 5514 was another voluntary legislative attempt that outlined measures to restrict the practice of “registered interior design" and the title “registered interior designer.” It sought to establish a state board for registered interior designers and explicitly excluded architects from being required to register. Recorded testimony showed support for the bill from ASID but opposition from both interior designers and architects with mention of ASID issuing fines to designers in Florida.[98] [99]

[95] Bill Analysis. “HB 2513.” Washington State House of Representatives (2026). Available at: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2003-04/Htm/Bill%20Reports/House/2513.HBA.htm (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[96] Washington State Archives - Digital Archives. “S-CT-2004-02-25.” Washington Secretary of State, 25 Feb 2004. Available at: https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/4C46507368920888E8E74600C3D952D5 (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).
[97] State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session. “Senate Bill 5754.” State of Washington (2026). Available at: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2005-06/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5754.pdf#page=1 (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[98] Senate Bill Report. “SB 5514.” Washington State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2009-10/Htm/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5514%20SBA%20LCCP%2009.htm (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[99] Washington State Archives - Digital Archives. “S-LCRD-2009_02_12.” Washington Secretary of State, 12 Feb 2009. Available at: https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/99C349CC7BA92CFCC1404A6CF8BA95B4 (Accessed 27 Sept 2026).

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Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	2	4
Interior Design	5	3
Other	1	1

Table 1.4.3.2 — Washington 2009 SB 5514 Proponents & Opponents (February 12, 2009 hearing)

- 2026 HB 2721 is the latest attempt at regulating "registered commercial interior design" in Washington. It includes a very detailed list of the scope of practice to be allowed but exempts architects from its qualification requirements and fails to modify the definitions of architecture or engineering accordingly. Due to its integration with architecture law, **it is not clear if interior designers would be bound by the 4,000 square foot cap**. Also, the board makeup would strongly favor architects with only two members being interior designers and 6 being registered architects. The testimony data in the chart below shows strong support among the AEC industry but a lack of opposition testimony.[100] [101]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	189	1
Interior Design	32	1
Other	126	0

Table 1.4.3.3 — Washington 2026 HB 2721 Proponents & Opponents (March 3, 2026 hearing)

Like Washington, there were more attempts to pass interior design legislation prior to the 2020s, but there has been more support this decade from AEC individuals.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	3	0	1

Table 1.4.3.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in Washington

[100] State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session. "House Bill 2721." Washington State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2721.pdf (Accessed 16 Aug 2026).
[101] House Committee Sign In. "HB 2721 Comm. interior designers." Washington State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/House?selectedCommittee=31640&selectedMeeting=34082 (Accessed 3 Oct 2026).

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Wyoming

At this time, **Wyoming does not have any current or proposed regulation** in place for interior designers. In addition, GTM could not find any data on past attempts at legislation.

Regional Summary

Only one state in the region has active interior design legislation, though it is voluntary and restrictive. Other states, especially Washington and Oregon, have made repeated attempts to pass legislation since the 2000s.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	3	3	2
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.4.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in Northwest

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1.5 Southeast

Alabama

Alabama began regulating interior design in 1982 under a voluntary title act which was the first such law in the United States. This legislation also **established the interior design board and permitting privileges for RIDs, both of which still exist today**.[102]

In 2001, the state began regulating the title "interior designer" and the practice of "interior design" under the Alabama Interior Designer Consumer Protection Act. However, architects were provided with an exemption while RIDs were prohibited from work affecting building systems and certain occupancies over 5,000 square feet.[103]

In 2010, HB440 repealed the 2001 law, likely due to the State v. Lupo ruling declaring the 2001 law as unconstitutional. RIDs were also prohibited from work over 5,000 square feet, within assembly occupancies, and affecting any means of egress component. This law and its restrictions continue today.[104][105]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	1	1	1	1	1
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	1	0	0
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	1	1	0	1	1

Table 1.5.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in Alabama

[102] Gianoudis, Anne-Marie. "The Importance of Being a Registered Interior Designer - RID." Alabama Board for Registered Interior Designers (2026). Available at: https://aldesign.online/importance-of-rid/ (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[103] Title 34 - Professions and Businesses."Chapter 15B - Alabama Interior Design Consumer Protection Act." Justia U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/alabama/2009/Title34/Chapter15B/Chapter15B.html (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[104] Case Law. "State v. Lupo." vLex (2026). Available at: https://case-law.vlex.com/vid/state-v-lupo-1050224-893547142 (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).

[105] Administrative Code. "Agency 485. Alabama State Board of Registration for Interior Design." Alabama Legislative Services Agency (2026). Available at: https://admincode.legislature.state.al.us/administrative-code/485 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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Arkansas

Interior design legislation was first passed in Arkansas in 1993 and continues today as a voluntary title act ("Registered Interior Designer"). This bill also created the State Board of Interior Design but required one architect to sit on it without reciprocating and providing an interior design seat on the architecture board. It broadly prohibited interior designers from work that could be considered architecture or engineering. Architects were provided with an exemption.[106]

In 2009, Act 1367 dissolved the interior design board, moved oversight to the State Board of Architects, and added one interior designer to a board of five architects, with five members constituting a quorum for decisions.[107]

Today's law explicitly requires an architect for construction supervision of any project, including alterations, and for any commercial project whose value is over $250,000.[108]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.5.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Arkansas

[106] State of Arkansas 79th General Assembly. "Act 847 of 1993." Arkansas State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F1993%2FPublic%2F847.pdf (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[107] State of Arkansas 87th General Assembly. "Act 1367 of the Regular Session." Arkansas State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FACTS%2F2009%2FPublic%2FACT1367.pdf (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[108] Title 17. Professions, Occupations, and Businesses. "Chapter XLI. Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers, Department of Labor and Licensing." Code of Arkansas Rules (2026). Available at: https://codeofarrules.arkansas.gov/Rules/Rule?levelType=chapter&titleID=17&chapterID=88&subChapterID=null&partID=null&subPartID=null&sectionID=null (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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Florida

In 1989, Florida began restricting the title "interior designer" to those who met certain qualifications and registered with the state. It authorized interior designers to submit their own drawings for a permit. Oversight was under the Board of Architecture and Interior Design consisting of 5 architects and 2 interior designers. Architects were exempt from meeting its requirements while interior designers were not exempt from any law mandating an architect. Architects remain required in Florida for commercial projects with any assembly occupancies or costs exceeding $25,000. **In Florida, licensed architects who choose to register as interior designers only have to pay a $30 fee.**[109] [110]

In 1994, the state expanded on its existing law to restrict the practice of "interior design" to registered interior designers. It prohibited interior designers from work related to building systems and egress.[111]

In 2020, Florida passed a deregulation bill impacting interior design. It removed the public safety language regarding interior design that had existed in law since 1989. The law created a voluntary registry for interior designers, removing protection of the title "interior designer" and explicitly allowing anyone to practice interior design.[112]

Below is the testimony data for the 2020 bill. The initial bill that was heard in January would have removed any interior design legislation. The second hearing in February had zero opposition as it removed the "strike-all" language. Most testimonies GTM could not confirm based on the public records available.[113] [114]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	9	6
Interior Design	12	3
Other	35	7

Table 1.5.3.1 — Florida 2020 HB 1193 Proponents & Opponents (Jan 21 and Feb 20, 2020 hearings)

[109] Scholarship Repository. "Session Law 88-383." Florida State University College of Law (2026). Available at: https://ir.law.fsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1833&context=staff-analysis (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[110] The 2026 Florida Statutes. "Title XXXII Chapter 481.229 Exceptions; exemptions from licensure." The Florida Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0481/Sections/0481.229.html (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[111] Chapter 94-119. "Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 2076." Advanced Legislative Search & Browse (2026). Available at: https://sb.flleg.gov/nxt/gateway.dll/Laws/lf1994/chapters%2094-101%20-%2094-125/ch_94-119.htm?f=templates$fn=document-frameset.htm$3.0 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[112] The Florida Senate. "CS/HB 1193: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations." State of Florida (2026). Available at: https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1193 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[113] Video Archive. "1/21/20 House Business and Professions Subcommittee." The Florida Channel (2026). Available at: https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/1-21-20-house-business-and-professions-subcommittee/ (Accessed 3 Oct 2026).
[114] Video Archive. "2/20/20 House Commerce Committee." The Florida Channel (2026). Available at: https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/2-20-20-house-commerce-committee/ (Accessed 3 Oct 2026).

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Overall, Florida has only just recently switched to a voluntary title act.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	1	0
Regulation - Practice	0	1	1	1	0
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.5.3.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Florida

Georgia

Georgia passed legislation for the voluntary registration of interior designers in 1992. It added two seats to a board of six architects. Architects are exempt from its requirements.[115]

In 2010, Georgia RIDs were given the ability to submit their own drawings for plan check and permit. However, in 2017, it was clarified that **interior designers must defer to architects or engineers for work within assembly, education, or institutional occupancies**.[116]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.5.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in Georgia

[115] Digital Library of Georgia. "Summary of general statutes enacted at the 1992 session of the General Assembly of Georgia." Digital Library of Georgia (2026). Available at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_ggpd_y-ga-bl400-pl4-bs1-bs7-b1992#text (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[116] Changus, Maximillian J. "Unofficial Opinion U2017-1." Office of the Attorney General, 25 Jan 2017. Available at: https://law.georgia.gov/opinions/u2017-1 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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Kentucky

The passage of House Bill 207 in 2002 commenced interior design legislation in Kentucky. It featured the following:

- **Added one interior designer to an existing board of six architects** and one architecture program CEO.
- Protected the voluntary title "certified interior designer."
- Exemption for architects, including being able to use the CID (Certified Interior Designer) title without registering.[117]

Interior designers in Kentucky are not exempt from an architect being required for occupancies exceeding a certain occupant load, including 100 or more for business (i.e. commercial office).[118]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.5.5 — Interior Design Regulation History in Kentucky

[117] Kentucky Legislature. "HB207." Kentucky Legislature (2026). Available at: https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/02rs/HB207.htm (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[118] Kentucky Revised Statutes. "KRS Chapter 323.033 Exemptions." Kentucky General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=51440 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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Louisiana

Interior designers in Louisiana are regulated by Chapter 44 of Title 37 which was initiated in 1984 as a title act protecting the title "interior designer." In 1999, Louisiana also began limiting the practice of interior design to only those who are qualified. Together both laws feature the following:

- A comprehensive definition of interior design that explicitly states that a nonstructural element is one related to the "structural integrity" of a building.
- A definition of space planning that includes the "placement of partitions."
- A board of interior designers that requires both registration and passage of the NCIDQ for membership.
- Permitting privileges.
- **Exemptions for architects, engineers, contractors, home builders, and home planners** to practice interior design without meeting the law's requirements.[119]

Louisiana's architecture laws do not explicitly exempt interior designers from requiring an architect for any renovation that is classified as Assembly, that impacts life safety, or exceeds specified floor areas.[120]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	1	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	1	1	1	1	1
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Practice	0	1	1	1	1
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1.5.6 — Interior Design Regulation History in Louisiana

[119] Louisiana State Legislature. "Chapter 44. Interior Designers." Louisiana State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=93971 (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).
[120] Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners. "Licensing Law." Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, 1 Jul 2025. Available at: https://lsbae.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/LSBAE-Laws-July-1-2025-with-table-of-contents-and-coverpage.pdf (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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Mississippi

In 2007, Senate Bill 3033 was introduced but failed to pass. It attempted to create a practice act requiring anyone practicing interior design to meet certain qualifications. It also would have granted registered interior designers permitting privileges.[121]

Then in 2010, House Bill 839 attempted to create a voluntary practice act defining the "practice of registered interior design" while exempting architects from its requirements. It did not grant interior designers permitting privileges.[122]

In 2011, Mississippi passed House Bill 1096 creating a voluntary "certified" title act. The Board of Architecture was tasked with oversight. It explicitly **prohibited CIDs from submitting their plans for a building permit**. Though it allowed architects and engineers to be certified, they were required to pass the same exam as interior designers.[123]

The law passed in 2011 has remained relatively unchanged over the years. However, Mississippi's architecture laws state that the interior constitutes the practice of architecture.[124] [125]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	1	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	1	1

Table 1.5.7 — Interior Design Regulation History in Mississippi

[121] 2007 Regular Session. "Senate Bill 3033." Mississippi Legislature (2026). Available at: https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2007/html/SB/3000-3099/SB3033IN.htm (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[122] 2010 Regular Session. "House Bill 839." Mississippi Legislature (2026). Available at: https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2010/html/HB/0800-0899/HB0839IN.htm (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[123] Mississippi Legislature. "House Bill 1096." Mississippi Legislature (2026). Available at: https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2011/html/HB/1000-1099/HB1096SG.htm (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[124] Title 30: Professions and Occupations. "Part 203: Interior Designer Advisory Committee to the Mississippi State Board of Architecture." Mississippi State Board of Architecture (2026). Available at: https://www.msboa.ms.gov/sites/msboa/files/PDFs/Services/InterioDesign/interior_rules.pdf (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

[125] Title 30: Professions and Occupations. "Part 201: Mississippi State Board of Architecture." Mississippi State Board of Architecture (2026). Available at: https://www.msboa.ms.gov/sites/msboa/files/PDFs/Services/Architects/arch_rules.pdf (Accessed 19 Sept 2026).

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North Carolina

North Carolina attempted interior design legislation as early as 1991 with Senate Bill 700. This bill, the "Certified Interior Designers Title Registration Act," intended to protect the voluntary title of "Certified Interior Designer." It would have broadly prohibited CIDs from any work that could be considered architecture or engineering. However, it proposed creating a dedicated board of interior designers. Architects were exempt from its requirements.[126]

In 2017, House Bill 590 was introduced but failed to pass. It was written as a voluntary title act that would provide registered interior designers with the ability to submit their own plans for permit. It exempted other licensed professionals from its requirements.[127]

In 2021, Senate Bill 188 passed. This legislation **placed oversight of interior designers under the existing Board of Architecture**, consisting of five architects and three interior designers. In addition, North Carolina's interior design legislation features the following:

- A definition of interior design that includes "paths of egress" while explicitly prohibiting "life safety plans" or anything considered the "practice of architecture."
- Maintained the requirement for an architect for commercial projects exceeding $200,000 or 3,000 square feet.
- Permitting privileges.
- Exemption for architects.[128]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	1	0	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.5.8 — Interior Design Regulation History in North Carolina

[126] General Assembly of North Carolina Session 1991. "Senate Bill 700." North Carolina General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/1991/Bills/Senate/HTML/S700v3.html (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[127] General Assembly of North Carolina Session 2017. "House Bill 590." North Carolina General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2017/Bills/House/PDF/H590v1.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[128] Chapter 83A. "Architects and Registered Interior Designers." North Carolina General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_83A.html (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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South Carolina

South Carolina does not have interior design legislation. However, the following have been attempts to pass laws:

- 1991 Bill 770: Proposed an interior design board and regulation of the title "interior designer" and the practice of "interior design." However, it would have exempted architects and prohibited interior designers from work impacting building systems.[129]
- 2005 H4989 & 2007 S1052: These bills attempted to create an interior design practice act and an interior designer title act while exempting architects from their requirements. They also proposed permitting privileges.[130] [131]
- 2013 S. 339: Proposed an interior design board, a voluntary registered interior designer title act, and permitting privileges while exempting architects and engineers.[132]
- 2026 H 5010: This most recent bill is attempting to put **oversight of registered interior designers under the state's existing board of architecture** in which interior designers would be outnumbered by architects. This bill would create a voluntary title act with permitting privileges while prohibiting registered interior designers from work related to engineering, architecture, building systems, and life safety.[133]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	1	2	1	1

Table 1.5.9 — Interior Design Regulation History in South Carolina

[129] South Carolina General Assembly 109th Session, 1991-1992. "Bill 770." South Carolina Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess109_1991-1992/bills/770.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[130] South Carolina General Assembly 116th Session, 2005-2006. "H. 4989." South Carolina Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess116_2005-2006/bills/4989.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[131] South Carolina General Assembly 117th Session, 2007-2008. "S. 1052." South Carolina Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess117_2007-2008/bills/1052.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[132] South Carolina General Assembly 120th Session, 2013-2014. "S. 339." South Carolina Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/339.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[133] South Carolina General Assembly 126th Session, 2025-2026. "H. 5010." South Carolina Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/5010.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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Tennessee

In 1991, Tennessee established a voluntary title act for registered interior designers. The existing board of architects and engineers was tasked with oversight. Architects were and remain exempt from its requirements. **Interior designers are prohibited from working on commercial projects exceeding 4,999 square feet**.[134] [135]

The following have been failed attempts to amend or abolish the legislation:

- 2010 HB 2016: Proposed a commercial interior design practice act along with an "interior designer" title act. It would have also ensured interior designers would be considered "registered design professionals." However, it continued the exemptions for architects and engineers and prohibited interior designers from certain interior design work, including building systems and life safety plans.[136]
- 2012 HB 1741: Attempted to enable interior designers to design within any interior commercial space while also ensuring permitting privileges. It would have continued a voluntary framework in which architects and engineers would be exempt from its requirements.[137]
- 2026 SB 2224: This legislation attempted to abolish interior design legislation. GTM could not find any public testimony by interior designers or allies.[138]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	2	1
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.5.10 — Interior Design Regulation History in Tennessee

[134] 2025 Tennessee Code Title 62 Chapter 2 Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers. "Part 9 - Interior Designers Title Registration Act." JUSTIA U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/title-62/chapter-2/part-1/section-62-2-102/ (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[135] 2025 Tennessee Code Title 62 Chapter 2 Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers. "Part 1 - General Provisions" JUSTIA U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/title-62/chapter-2/part-9/section-62-2-903/ (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[136] Sontany. "House Bill 2016." Tennessee General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Bill/HB2016.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[137] Sontany. "House Bill 1741." Tennessee General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://capitol.tn.gov/Bills/107/Bill/HB1741.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[138] Lamberth. "Senate Bill 2224." Tennessee General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/SB2224.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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Virginia

Virginia passed a voluntary title act in 1990 restricting the title "Certified Interior Designer." Other features of Virginia's law includes:

- Requiring an architect for commercial work exceeding 5,000 square feet, most assembly occupancies, increase in occupant load, or changes in occupancy
- Oversight by a multidisciplinary board consisting of three architects, three engineers, three land surveyors, two landscape architects, two interior designers, and two public members.
- Exemptions for architects and engineers.[139]

In 2023, lawmakers attempted to remove interior design legislation with SB 1480. Legislators specifically targeted the voluntary nature of the law.[140] [141]

A quorum for decisions on this multidisciplinary board does not require an interior designer, and the quorum was lowered in 2026.[142]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	1
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.5.11 — Interior Design Regulation History in Virginia

[139] Code of Virginia. "Chapter 4. Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers." Virginia Law (2026). Available at: https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title54.1/chapter4/ (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[140] 2023 Session. "SB1480 Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of; deregulation of certain professions." Commonwealth of Virginia (2026). Available at: https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20231/SB1480 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[141] Senate of Virginia. "General Laws and Technology on 2023-02-01 [Archival]." YouTube (2026). Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsmJeE9ppFg (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[142] 2026 Regular Session. "HB1176 Regulatory Boards, certain; quorum requirements." Commonwealth of Virginia (2026). Available at: https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/HB1176 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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West Virginia

West Virginia has not passed any interior design legislation nor has there been any significant attempt to do so.

Regional Summary

The Southeast has some form of interior design legislation in all but two of the twelve states with the 1990s seeing the largest uptick in bills being passed. However, all ten states with legislation exempt architects and in many cases engineers from meeting the same requirements as interior designers. **The 2000s saw three states with regulation which has now been reduced to only one state (Louisiana).** The other nine states maintain a voluntary title act. All ten states, including Louisiana, place restrictions on interior designers that in practice include interior design scope.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	3	7	8	8	9
Board Parity	2	2	2	2	2
Failed Bill	0	2	3	5	3
Permitting Privileges	3	3	3	4	5
Regulation - Title	2	2	3	2	1
Regulation - Practice	0	2	3	2	1
Scope Restrictions	3	6	7	9	10
Voluntary - Title	1	5	5	7	9

Table 1.5.12 — Interior Design Regulation History in the Southeast

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1.6 Southwest

Arizona

Arizona does not have any active interior design legislation. However, HB 2309 in 2011 was an attempt to pass a law and included:

- Voluntary title act protecting the title "registered interior designer."
- Oversight of interior design under an existing multidisciplinary board favoring architects and engineers.
- Exemptions for architects and engineers.
- Permitting privileges.[143]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	0	1	0

Table 1.6.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in Arizona

California

In 1983, Senate Bill 530 failed to pass. It would have established an interior design board. The following year, in 1984, Senate Bill 1502 failed to pass its title act for interior designers. In 1985, an exemption under architecture law was enacted by Senate Bill 790, allowing unlicensed designers to practice interior design and submit plans to building departments. However, this was up to interpretation by building officials.[144]

In 1990, California passed legislation that established the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC), created a voluntary title act protecting the title "Certified Interior Designer," and allowed CIDs to submit their plans for a building permit.[145] [146]

[143] State of Arizona House of Representatives Fiftieth Legislature First Regular Session 2011. "HB 2309." Arizona State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/bills/hb2309p.htm (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[144] Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development. "Background Paper for The California Council for Interior Design Certification." California State Assembly (2026). Available at: https://abp.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2026-03/2-ca-council-for-interior-design-certification-background-paper-2026_0.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[145] L.A. Times Archives. "Bill Recognizing Designers is OKd." Los Angeles Times, 12 Aug 1990. Available at: https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1990-08-12-re-1158-story.html (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[146] Business and Professions Code - BPC Division 3. Professions and Vocations Generally. "Chapter 3.9. Interior Designers [5800 - 5812]." California Legislative Information (2026). Available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&division=3.&title=&part=&chapter=3.9.&article (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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In 2013, Senate Bill 308 was passed to extend the existing law but also:

- Required all meetings by the CCIDC to be public.
- Required CIDs to maintain written contracts with clients.
- Clarified that **only the title "Certified Interior Designer" is protected and anyone can call themselves an "Interior Designer."**[147]

In 2026, Assembly Bill 2772 passed and extended CCIDC's operations for another 4 years. Those working at AEC firms and the IIDA fought against this bill.[148] [149]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	0	9
Interior Design	6	2
Other	2	2

Table 1.6.2.1 — California 2026 AB 2772 Proponents & Opponents (June 29, 2026 hearing)

2026's Assembly Bill 1796 attempted to abolish CCIDC and move interior design oversight to the existing architecture board with only one seat for interior designers. The bill was a voluntary title act that would have added restrictions prohibiting interior designers from any work that constitutes engineering or architecture while exempting all other licensed professionals. The path to licensure for existing CIDs was also challenged. This bill was pushed by IIDA and those working at AEC firms.[150] [151]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	27	1
Interior Design	5	8
Other	12	5

Table 1.6.2.2 — California 2026 AB 1796 Proponents & Opponents (April 21, 2026 hearing)

[147] Senator Lieu. "Bill Number: SB 308 Chaptered." California Legislative Information, 13 Feb 2013. Available at: https://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0301-0350/sb_308_bill_20130923_chaptered.html (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[148] Bills. "AB 2772: Interior Designers." CalMatters (2026). Available at: https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202520260ab2772 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[149] Hearings. "Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, June 29, 2026." Digital Democracy CalMatters (2026). Available at: https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/hearings/279752#t=527&f=8723350737dbe0c2983e970def773ad1 (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[150] Bills. "AB 1796: Licensed Professional Interior Designer Practice Act." CalMatters (2026). Available at: https://calmatters.digitaldemocracy.org/bills/ca_202520260ab1796 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[151] California State Assembly. "April 21, 2026: Assembly Business and Professions Committee." California State Assembly (2026). Available at: https://www.assembly.ca.gov/media/assembly-business-and-professions-committee-20260421 (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	1	1	1	1
Failed Bill	2	0	0	0	1
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.6.2.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in California

Colorado

In 2011, Senate Bill 11-067 attempted to pass a voluntary title act and regulation of commercial interior design while restricting building systems and exempting architects.[152]

With the passage of House Bill 20-1165 in 2020, **the state provides an exemption within architecture law for interior designers** to submit their plans to building departments when a permit is required. It also exempted interior designers from the interiors-related restrictions that require a need for an architect.[153] [154]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	0	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.6.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Colorado

[152] First Regular Session Sixty-eighth General Assembly State of Colorado. "Senate Bill 11-067." SCRIBD (2026). Available at: https://www.scribd.com/doc/49254884/067-01 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[153] 2020 Regular Session. "HB20-1165 Interior Design Practice." Colorado General Assembly (2026). Available at: https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1165 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[154] 2025 Colorado Revised Statutes. "Part 4 - Architects §12-120-403. Exemptions - Definitions." JUSTIA U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/colorado/title-12/business-professions-and-occupations/article-120/part-4/section-12-120-403/ (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).

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Nevada

Interior design legislation commenced in Nevada in 1995 with Senate Bill 506. This law included a voluntary title act and regulated the practice of interior design, including:

- Restrictions on work related to life safety systems or walls separating use areas.
- Authorization to submit plans for a building permit.
- Oversight by the existing board of architecture adding four interior designers and one residential interior designer. Matters concerning a particular profession could only be voted upon by that profession.
- **Limitations on interior designers to collaborate with no more than two other architects and/or engineers.**[155]

Testimony implies architects were against SB 506 until amendments were made.[156]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	4	0
Interior Design	4	2
Other	2	2

Table 1.6.4.1 — Nevada 1995 SB 506 Proponents & Opponents (Jun 1 and Jun 26, 1995 hearings)

In 1997, Assembly Bill 258 was passed and included the following:

- New board makeup that retained the five architect seats, the one residential designer seat, and the one public member seat; removed the residential interior designer seat; reduced the interior designer seats to two.
- Simplification of voting by a quorum being five members without any specific reference to a profession.
- Removed the concrete interior design practice act but retained the voluntary title act.[157]

Testimony indicates that the 1997 changes were driven by decorators who wanted to advertise that they practice “interior design.” The changes were also supported by the AIA and the Nevada Board of Architecture.[158]

In 2001, architects and residential designers were explicitly exempted and permitted to practice as a “registered interior designer” without registering. And, in 2013, architects

[155] Nevada Legislature. “Chapter 623 - Architects, Interior Designers and Residential Designers.” Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-623.html#NRS623Sec015 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[156] Legislative History. “SB506, 1995.” Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/LHs/1995/SB506,1995.pdf (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[157] Assemblymen Dini and Perkins. “Assembly Bill No. 258.” Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://archive.leg.state.nv.us/Session/69th1997/97bills/AB/AB258_EN.HTM (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[158] History of AB258. “History of AB 258 - 1997.” Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/LegHistory/LHs/1997/AB258,1997.pdf (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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pushed for the passage of AB 434, updating the legislation to allow an architecture degree as a substitute for interior design education requirements.[159] [160] [161]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	1	1	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	1	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	1	1	1	1

Table 1.6.4.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Nevada

[159] Committee on Judiciary. "Senate Bill No. 301." Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Statutes/71st/Stats200113.html#Stats200113page1790 (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[160] Committee on Commerce and Labor. "Assembly Bill No. 434." Nevada Legislature (2026). Available at: https://archive.leg.state.nv.us/Session/77th2013/Bills/AB/AB434.pdf (Accessed 20 Sept 2026).
[161] Majied-Martinez, Wynona. "Minutes of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy." Seventy-Seventh Session, 26 Apr 2013. Available at: https://archive.leg.state.nv.us/Session/77th2013/Minutes/Senate/CL/Final/992.pdf (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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New Mexico

New Mexico enacted interior design legislation in 1989 through the passage of House Bill 384. The legislation created a board of interior design. This law restricted the title "interior designer" to only those qualified, but did not restrict the practice of interior design. It prohibited interior designers from work related to building systems. Today, an architect remains required for any commercial project requiring a permit.[162] [163]

In 2007, following a 2006 lawsuit from the Institute for Justice, the law was modified to a voluntary framework restricting the title "licensed interior designer." And, **in 2023, HB 384 passed, dissolving the interior design board** and moving oversight to the Regulation and Licensing Department. This bill was introduced by ASID and supported by IIDA with the intent to save the voluntary licensing scheme. Some data does indicate that the board was having financial difficulties.[164] [165] [166] [167] [168]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	1	1	1	1	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	1	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.6.5 — Interior Design Regulation History in New Mexico

[162] New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects. "Architectural Act." New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects (2026). Available at: https://www.bea.state.nm.us/s/architectural-act (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[163] New Mexico Statutes Chapter 61. "Article 24C Interior Designers." New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department (2026). Available at: https://www.rld.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/61ARTICLE-24C-Interior-Designers.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[164] 48th Legislature - State of New Mexico - First Session, 2007. "Senate Bill 535." New Mexico Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.nmlegis.gov/sessions/07%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0535.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[165] Institute for Justice. "New Mexico Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/sherry-franzoy-and-caryn-armijo-v-barbara-templeman/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[166] Board Information. "Interior Design: Board Information." New Mexico Regulation & Licensing Department (2026). Available at: https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/interior-design/board-information/ (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[167] Press Room. "New Mexico Bill Protecting Interior Design Legislation Passes Unanimously." IIDA, 7 Apr 2023. Available at: https://iida.org/press-release/new-mexico-bill-protecting-interior-design-legislation-passes-unanimously (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[168] News. "New Mexico Bill Protecting Interior Design Legislation Passes Unanimously." ASID, 6 Apr 2023. Available at: https://www.asid.org/news/new-mexico-bill-protecting-interior-design-legislation-passes-unanimously (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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Oklahoma

In 2006, Oklahoma first introduced and passed interior design legislation under Senate Bill 1991. It modified the existing Architectural Act to include title and practice regulation for interior designers while **explicitly exempting architects from its requirements**. The law added only one interior designer to the board of architects. It did not exempt interior designers from requiring an architect for most commercial projects.[169]

In 2009, following a suit filed by the Institute for Justice, Oklahoma changed the language of its 2006 law to protect the title "Registered Interior Designer," changing the legislation to a voluntary title act and regulating the practice of "registered interior design."[170] [171]

In 2021, the law was modified to regulate the voluntary title "registered commercial interior designer" while granting permitting privileges to those registered. It also increased interior designers on the board from one to two, reducing architects from seven to six.[172]

A few years later, in 2024, Oklahoma passed House Bill 1793. This modified the voluntary title, protecting "licensed interior designer." It added a definition of "licensed interior design" that excluded anything considered architecture or engineering and building systems while removing the occupancy restrictions on interior designers.[173]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	1	1	1
Scope Restrictions	0	0	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

[169] Senate Committee and Fiscal Staffs. "SB 1991 (Morgan/Wilt)." Oklahoma Senate (2026). Available at: https://oksenate.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/2006_legislative_summary.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[170] Legal Information Institute. "Okla. Admin. Code tit. 55, ch. 10." Cornell Law School (2026). Available at: https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/oklahoma/title-55/chapter-10 (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[171] Institute for Justice. "Oklahoma Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/oklahoma-interior-design/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[172] Osburn of the House and Pugh of the Senate. "An Act Enrolled House Bill No. 1147." Oklahoma State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2021-22%20ENR/hB/HB1147%20ENR.PDF (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[173] Osburn and Archer of the House and Pugh of the Senate. "An Act Enrolled House Bill No. 1793." Oklahoma State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2023-24%20ENR/hB/HB1793%20ENR.PDF (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).

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Table 1.6.6 — Interior Design Regulation History in Oklahoma

Texas

Texas failed to pass interior design regulation in 1989 through Senate Bill 454. This law would have protected the title "interior designer," while explicitly allowing anyone to practice interior design. It would have also created an interior design board. Architects and interior designers supported the bill while predominantly decorators opposed it.[174] [175]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	4	0
Interior Design	10	2
Other	2	6

Table 1.6.7.1 — Texas 1989 SB 454 Proponents & Opponents (May 11, 1989 hearing)

In 1991, Texas passed Senate Bill 429. This law regulated the title "interior designer" and the practice of interior design. The following features of this law continue today:

- Interior designers are prohibited from work constituting architecture or engineering, and work related to "architectural interior construction" and building systems.
- Architects are exempt from this law.
- The board of architecture includes four architects, one landscape architect, and one interior designer.
- An architect is required for any education, assembly or office occupancy in which costs exceed $50,000 or if any partitions are removed, relocated, or added.[176] [177]

Testimony data is limited to those who spoke in support of the bill.[178]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	5	0
Interior Design	6	0

[174] Carter, Thomas B. "Letter to Senator Harris." Federal Trade Commission, 3 May 1989. Available at: https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/advocacy_documents/ftc-staff-comment-hon.o.h.harris-concerning-texas-s.b.454-license-interior-designers/v890045.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[175] Wilson, Carol. "May 16, 1989 Minutes." Economic Development Committee, 16 May 1989. Available at: https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/legisCmteMinutes/SenateCmtes/71-0/Economic_Development/05111989.pdf (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[176] 72nd R.S., 1991. "S.B. No. 429." Legislative Reference Library of Texas (2026). Available at: https://lrl.texas.gov/LASDOCS/72R/SB429/SB429_72R.pdf#page=310 (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[177] Occupations Code. "Chapter 1053. Interior Designers." Texas Constitution and Statutes (2026). Available at: https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docviewer?docName=OC.1053.htm (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[178] Freitag, Becki. "April 23, 1991 Minutes." Economic Development Committee, 23 Apr 1991. Available at: https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/legisCmteMinutes/SenateCmtes/72-0/Economic_Development/04151991.pdf (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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Other	2	0

Table 1.6.7.2 — Texas 1991 SB 429 Proponents & Opponents (April 15, 1991 hearing)

In 2009, the Fifth Circuit ruled that the Institute for Justice was entitled to a preliminary injunction against enforcement of Texas's interior design title law, in a First Amendment challenge. The state then amended the statute so that anyone performing interior design work could use the terms 'interior design' and 'interior designer,' leaving a voluntary title act only.[179]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	1	1	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	1	0	0	0	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	1	1	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	1	1	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	1	1	1	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1.6.7.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Texas

[179] Institute for Justice. "Texas Interior Design: Challenging Texas' Licensing of Speech for Interior Designers." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/byrum-et-al-v-landreth-et-al-2/ (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).

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Utah

In 2015, Senate Bill 298 failed to pass. This bill offered a comprehensive definition of interior design that excluded specific structural elements, base building life-safety, and certain occupancy groups. It would have protected the title "certified interior designer" while restricting the practice of interior design for projects requiring a building permit. The bill also explicitly exempted architects from its requirements.[180]

The following year, Senate Bill 117 passed, enacting the following:

- A voluntary title act with permitting privileges for Business and Mercantile occupancies only.
- It prohibited certified interior designers from:
    - Work impacting building systems or life safety
    - Designing partial height walls with mounted elements (cabinetry, TVs, etc..)
    - Designing partial height walls requiring bracing (i.e. kickbacks) to the underside of the floor above.
- Exemption for architects.
- Oversight by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL).[181]

2026's **Senate Bill 286 removed the restrictions related to occupancy groups and partial height walls**. However, the state's architecture law still indicates an architect is required for projects exceeding 3,000 square feet.[182] [183]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	0	0	0	1	1
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	1	0
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	1	1
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	1	1

[180] 2015 General Session State of Utah. "Interior Design Certification Amendments." Utah State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/sbillint/SB0298.htm (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[181] 2016 General Session. "S.B. 117 Commercial Interior Design Certification Modifications." Utah State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://le.utah.gov/~2016/bills/static/SB0117.html (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[182] 2026 General Session. "S.B. 286 Interior Designer Amendments." Utah State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://le.utah.gov/~2026/bills/static/SB0286.html (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[183] Utah Code. "Chapter 3a Part 3 Section 304 Exemptions from licensure." Utah State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title58/Chapter3A/58-3a-S304.html?v=C58-3a-S304_2026050620260701 (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).

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Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	1	1

Table 1.6.8 — Interior Design Regulation History in Utah

Regional Summary

With the exception of Arizona, all states in the Southwest have some form of interior design legislation. Six states have a voluntary title act, but prior to the late 2000s, three of these states did regulate the title "interior designer." Only one state (Utah) has a Practice Act regulating commercial interior design. And one state (Colorado) has an exemption for interior designers within its existing architecture laws.

Like the rest of the country, **most states in the Southwest prohibit interior designers from activities directly related to the practice of interior design while simultaneously providing permitting privileges**.

Two states achieved board parity, but only one, California has maintained this, though it was threatened in 2026.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Architect Exemption	0	1	3	4	4
Board Parity	1	2	2	2	1
Failed Bill	3	0	0	3	1
Permitting Privileges	0	2	2	3	5
Regulation - Title	1	2	3	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	2	2	1	1
Scope Restrictions	1	3	4	5	5
Voluntary - Title	0	2	5	6	6

Table 1.6.9 — Interior Design Regulation History in the Southwest

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1.7 Non-contiguous United States

Alaska

In 2023, Alaska failed to pass House Bill 159. It proposed a voluntary title act and "registered interior design" practice act with permitting privileges. Architects were both for and against the bill.[184] [185]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	13	12
Interior Design	2	0
Other	1	1

Table 1.7.1.1 — Alaska 2023 HB 159 Proponents & Opponents (written testimonies)

Legislators made another failed attempt to pass legislation in 2025 with Senate Bill 54. This bill proposed a voluntary title act with permitting privileges. AIA and NCARB spoke against it with AIA stating that they "can live with" a title act.[186] [187]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	22	3
Interior Design	1	0
Other	7	0

Table 1.7.1.2 — Alaska 2025 SB 54 Proponents & Opponents (written testimonies)

In 2026, legislators successfully passed House Bill 314. However, passage required overriding a veto from the Governor whose explanation included the fact that the law creates an "optional" registration. Besides its voluntary nature, the legislation:

- Added one interior designer to an existing board of architects and engineers.

[184] The House Labor and Commerce Committee. "CS for House Bill No.159 (L&C)." The Alaska State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/33/Bills/HB0159B.PDF (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[185] 33rd Legislature (2023-2024) Bill History/Action for Legislature. "Documents for Bill HB 159 33rd Legislature." The Alaska State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=HB%20159#tab5_4 (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).
[186] Laws of Alaska 2025. "An Act (Enrolled SB 54)." The Alaska State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/34/Bills/SB0054Z.PDF (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[187] 34th Legislature (2025-2026) Bill History/Action for Legislature. "Documents for Bill SB 54 34th Legislature." The Alaska State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=SB%20%2054#tab5_4 (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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- Provided **permitting privileges as determined by the board.** (Note that because of this GTM does not consider Alaska as realistically providing these privileges)
- Redefined "design professional" to include registered interior designers.
- Included a **"Practice of interior design" "as defined by the board."**[188] [189]

Architects showed support for the 2026 bill while the AIA was against interior designers being on the board since a practice act was not being proposed.[190]

Category	Proponents	Opponents
AEC (Architecture, Engineering, Construction)	12	0
Interior Design	1	0
Other	0	1

Table 1.7.1.3 — Alaska 2026 HB 314 Proponents & Opponents (written testimonies)

Overall, significant legislative activity for interior designers in Alaska, including failed attempts, has only occurred in the current decade.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Architect Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	0	0	2
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.7.1.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in Alaska

[188] Statutes and Regulations. "Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects." State of Alaska (2026). Available at: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/5/pub/aelsstatutesregs.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[189] Dunleavy, Governor Mike. "Letter to Speaker Edgmon." The Alaska State Legislature, 18 Jun 2026. Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/34/Vetoes/HB314.pdf (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[190] 34th Legislature (2025-2026) Bill History/Action for Legislature. "Documents for Bill HB 314 34th Legislature." The Alaska State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=HB314#tab5_4 (Accessed 4 Oct 2026).

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Hawaii

Hawaii does not have active interior design legislation but attempted to do so in 2008 with House Bill 3324. This bill featured:

- A voluntary title act
- An interior design board.[191]

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	0

Table 1.7.2 — Interior Design Regulation History in Hawaii

Puerto Rico

Starting in 1973, Puerto Rico passed legislation **grouping interior designers with decorators**, both as defined and for its board. It requires a license to practice interior design or interior decorating or to use the title "interior designer" or "interior decorator." Puerto Rico law requires an architect or engineer for any project that impacts life safety or requires a building permit.[192] [193]

Because the law presents interior design and interior decorating as synonymous, we are not including Puerto Rico as regulating interior design as it would promote a misunderstanding of the profession. However, interior designers in Puerto Rico are clearly restricted from practicing independently due to architecture law.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	1

Table 1.7.3 — Interior Design Regulation History in Puerto Rico

[191] House of Representatives Twenty-Fourth Legislature, 2008 State of Hawaii. "H.B. No. 3324." Hawai'i State Legislature (2026). Available at: https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2008/bills/HB3324_.htm (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[192] 2025 Laws of Puerto Rico. "Title 20 Chapter 71 Subchapter 1 - Board of Examiners of Interior Designer-Decorators." JUSTIA U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/puerto-rico/title-twenty/chapter-71/subchapter-i/2231/ (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[193] 2025 Laws of Puerto Rico. "Title 23 Part 1 Chapter 1 § 42b. Certification of plans - Exemption." JUSTIA U.S. Law (2026). Available at: https://law.justia.com/codes/puerto-rico/title-twenty-three/part-i/chapter-1/42b/ (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).

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Regional Summary

Outside of the contiguous United States, **only one jurisdiction has interior design legislation** (Alaska), and it passed relatively quickly after only a couple very recent similar attempts. Though it claims to provide designers with permitting privileges, it fails to define the allowed scope while clearly outlining restrictions.

Hawaii has only attempted significant legislation once. And Puerto Rico regulates decorating with interior design, promoting a misunderstanding of the profession.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Architect Exemption	0	0	0	0	0
Board Parity	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Bill	0	0	1	0	2
Permitting Privileges	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Title	0	0	0	0	0
Regulation - Practice	0	0	0	0	0
Scope Restrictions	1	1	1	1	2
Voluntary - Title	0	0	0	0	1

Table 1.7.4 — Interior Design Regulation History in the non-contiguous United States

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Section 2: Regulation as a Country

2.1 Regulation Summary Table & Graph

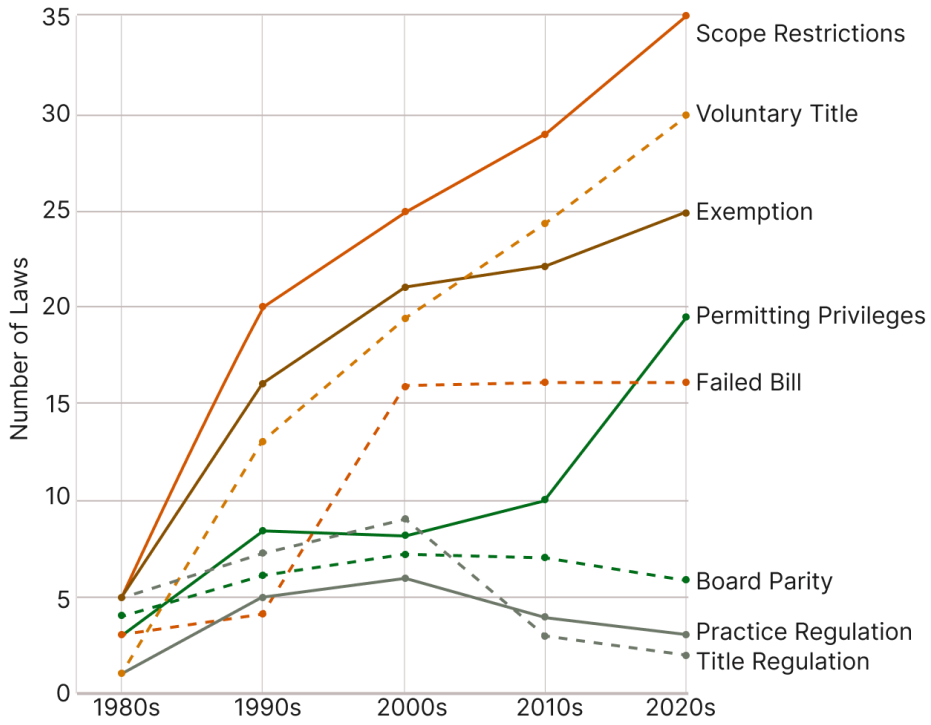
The table and line graph below summarize the data on the previous pages:

- Regulation has been low but has decreased even more over the last twenty years.
- Board parity has been rare but has decreased in recent years.
- Restrictions, exemptions, and voluntary title acts have steadily increased over time.
- Permitting privileges have seen a sharp increase in the last decade.
- There were many legislation attempts in the 2000s and has since remained steady.

Category	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
Exemption	5	16	21	22	25
Board Parity	4	6	7	7	6
Failed Bill	3	4	16	16	16
Permitting Privileges	3	8	8	10	19
Regulation - Title	5	7	9	3	2
Regulation - Practice	1	5	6	4	3
Scope Restrictions	6	21	26	30	35
Voluntary - Title	1	13	19	24	30

Table 2.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in the United States

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Graph 2.1 — Interior Design Regulation History in the United States

2.2 Support and Opposition Summary

We summarized the testimony data for each bill and organized the totals into the same decades as the regulation data. Below are the results, separated into two tables, one for supporting and one for opposing testimony.

The chart here shows a significant increase in recorded support and/or participation from groups in recent years with the majority being from the AEC group.

Supporting Testimony					
Category	**1980s**	**1990s**	**2000s**	**2010s**	**2020s**
AEC (Arch, Engineering, Constr)	4	9	2	9	662
Interior Design	10	10	6	2	157
Other	2	4	2	1	384
Total supporting	**16**	**23**	**10**	**12**	**1203**

Table 2.2.1 — Interior Design Legislation Supporting Testimony History in the United States

The chart below also shows a significant increase in recorded opposition and/or participation from groups in recent years with the majority again being from the AEC group. However, when compared to supporting testimony in each decade, with exception of the 2000s, opposing testimonies have remained less than supporting testimonies.

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Opposing Testimony					
Category	**1980s**	**1990s**	**2000s**	**2010s**	**2020s**
AEC (Arch, Engineering, Constr)	0	0	4	7	63
Interior Design	2	2	8	0	14
Other	6	2	1	1	22
Total opposing	**8**	**4**	**13**	**8**	**99**

Table 2.2.2 — Interior Design Legislation Opposing Testimony History in the United States

For clarity, the below chart summarizes the total bills with online public testimony available. Again, overall, **participation and/or availability of records has increased dramatically in the 2020s**.

Total Bills & Testimony					
Category	**1980s**	**1990s**	**2000s**	**2010s**	**2020s**
Number of bills	1	2	2	2	12
Total testimonies	24	27	23	20	1302

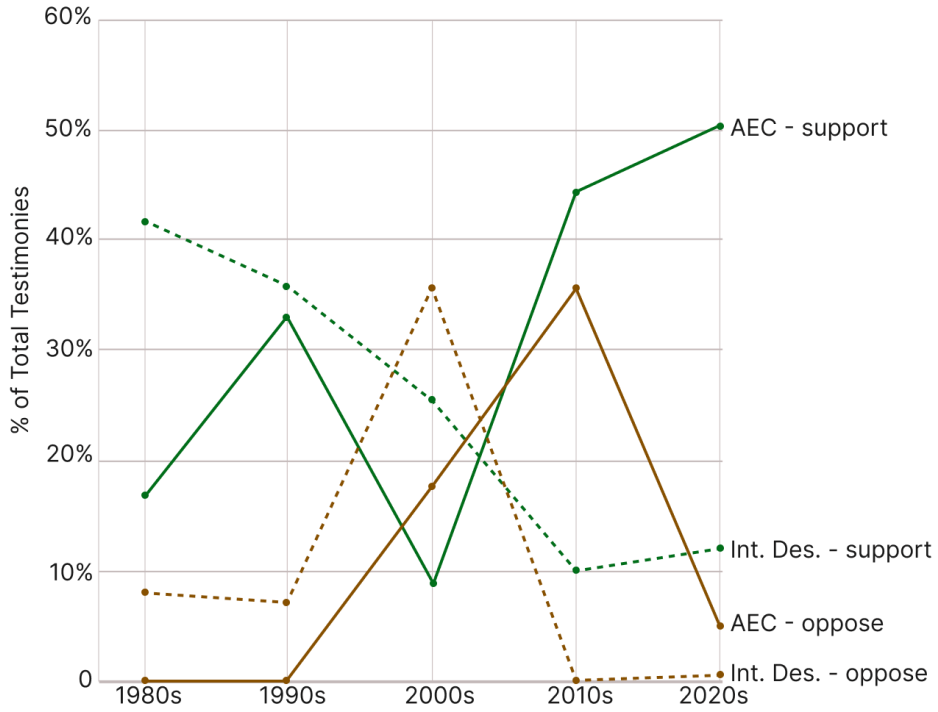
Table 2.2.3 — Total Bills & Testimony Available for this Analysis

Because of the disparity in available data among decades, we also show percentages in the chart and graph below.

Category	**1980s**		**1990s**		**2000s**		**2010s**		**2020s**	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
AEC (Arch, Engineering, Constr)	17%	0%	33%	0%	9%	17%	45%	35%	51%	5%
Interior Design	42%	8%	37%	7%	26%	35%	10%	0%	12%	1%
Other	8%	25%	15%	7%	9%	4%	5%	5%	29%	8%
Totals	**67%**	**33%**	**85%**	**15%**	**43%**	**57%**	**60%**	**40%**	**92%**	**8%**

Table 2.2.4 — AEC and Interior Designers, Percent Supporting vs Percent Opposition

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Graph 2.2 — Supporting & Opposing Testimony from AEC and Interior Designers

To summarize, the data on these charts and the graph above show:

- A massive increase in participation during the 2020s, possibly driven by digitized hearing data and heightened stakeholder interest. Total recorded testimonies reached 1,302 - far outstripping the historical average of 13 testimonies per bill, which would have yielded only 156 baseline entries across the 12 bills analyzed.
- Supporting testimony has consistently beat opposition except in the 2000s; AEC support alone now tops 50% in the 2020s.
- Though we need more data from earlier decades to support this claim, the initial supporting percentages plotted on the line graph indicate decreased support from interior designers and increased support from AEC for legislation.

2.3 Key Events

1980s

In 1980, a massive fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas killed 85 people. An investigation uncovered that the majority of the deaths were due to toxic smoke that formed from interior finishes. This fire was one of many that had resulted in dozens of fatalities due to improperly designed interiors even after architecture started being regulated in 1897. The full analysis is available on GTM's website.[194] [195]

[194] Best, Richard, and Demers, David P. "Investigation Report on the MGM Grand Hotel Fire." National Fire Protection Association, 15 Jan. 1982. Available at: https://www.firefighternation.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/lasvegasmgmgrand.pdf (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).

[195] The Green Tape Measure. "Fire, Design, and Liability." The Green Tape Measure (2026). Available at: https://thegreentapemeasure.org/#research (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).

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A couple years later, in 1982, Alabama became the first state to pass interior design legislation, though it was a voluntary title act.[196]

In 1987, architects opposed interior design legislation. Each side, architects and interior designers, accused the other as unqualified to practice the scope outlined in the laws.[197]

In 1989, AIA (American Institute of Architects), ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), IBD (Institute of Business Designers), and ISID (International Society of Interior Designers) signed an agreement, also known as the "Joint Accord." This agreement outlined criteria that the interior design organizations had to agree to in order to gain architects' support for interior design legislation, including **joint regulatory boards, exemption for architects, and no practice acts**.[198]

1990s

In 1994, IBD, ISID, and CFID (the Council of Federal Interior Designers) joined to form IIDA (the International Interior Design Association). IIDA described the purpose of this organization as to "represent interior designers worldwide."[199]

In 1999, ASID voted to no longer honor the Joint Accord with AIA, and IIDA issued a statement supporting the decision. AIA accused IIDA and ASID of pursuing practice acts in several states.[200]

2000s

In 2003, a nightclub fire in Rhode Island killed 100 people as a result of rapid fire spread and toxic fumes from interior finishes.[201]

The Institute for Justice filed First Amendment challenges to title laws in at least five states between 2006 and 2009; in Connecticut, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma,

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[196] IIDA Alabama Chapter. "Advocacy & Legislation." IIDA Alabama Chapter (2026). Available at: https://www.iida-al.org/resources/advocacy-legislation (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[197] Gillman, Todd J. "Architects Fight D.C. Law Licensing Interior Designers." The Washington Post, 23 Aug. 1987. Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/business/1987/08/24/architects-fight-dc-law-licensing-interior-designers/b4afb5fa-aa7e-4b59-9536-3fd85ecd9963 (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[198] Whitney, Marilyn Corson. "A History of the Professionalization of Interior Design." Virginia Tech VTechWorks, 18 Aug. 2008. Available at: https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/75802a53-f826-4e1b-9e44-1afa7c02bd4f/content#page=92 (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[199] Our Story. "History." IIDA (2025). Available at: https://iida.org/about/our-story (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[200] AIA Las Vegas. "Interior Designers Abandon 1989 Accord." Forum, July 2000. Available at: https://usmodernist.org/AIANV/AIALV-1999-07.pdf#page=3 (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[201] NIST. "Disaster & Failure Studies: The Station Nightclub Fire 2003." NIST 3 June 2011. Available at: https://www.nist.gov/disaster-failure-studies/station-nightclub-fire-2003 (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).

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legislatures amended the laws, and in Florida a court struck the advertising restriction but upheld limits on practice.[202] [203] [204] [205] [206]

2010s

Starting in 2013, **architects are allowed to join ASID as practitioner members**, making them equal in the organization to interior designers. However, architects do not have to undergo any interior design exam to gain this status. Following ASID's decision, in 2014, IIDA provided a path to professional membership requiring just the passage of the ARE (Architect Registration Examination).[207] [208]

2020s

In 2021, the AIA chose to no longer require its chapters and members to oppose interior design legislation. [209]

A couple years later, in 2023, ASID, IIDA, and CIDQ (Council for Interior Designer Qualification), formed the Consortium for Interior Design. Since 2023, this organization has supported "reasonable regulation" of interior design which actively avoids any regulation of the title "interior designer" or the practice of "interior design." [210] [211]

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[202] Institute for Justice. "Connecticut Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/susan-roberts-v-jerry-farrell/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[203] Institute for Justice. "Texas Interior Design: Challenging Texas' Licensing of Speech for Interior Designers." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/byrum-et-al-v-landreth-et-al-2/ (Accessed 21 Sept 2026).
[204] Institute for Justice. "New Mexico Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/sherry-franzoy-and-caryn-armijo-v-barbara-templeman/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[205] Institute for Justice. "Oklahoma Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/oklahoma-interior-design/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[206] Institute for Justice. "Florida Interior Design." Institute for Justice (2026). Available at: https://ij.org/case/locke-v-shore/ (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).
[207] Professional Membership. "Qualifications." IIDA (2026). Available at: https://iida.org/memberships/professional (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[208] ASID. "Frequently Asked Questions: Why is ASID including architects in its membership structure?." American Society of Interior Designers (2025). Available at: https://www.asid.org/frequently_asked_questions/frequently_asked_questions (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[209] CIDQ. AIA Revises Interior Design Opposition Position Statement. Council for Interior Design Qualification, 17 Jan. 2022. Available at: https://www.cidq.org/2022/01/17/aia-revises-interior-design-opposition-position-statement/ (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[210] ASID. "ASID, CIDQ, and IIDA Announce Consortium for Interior Design." ASID, 29 Mar. 2023. Available at: https://www.asid.org/news/asid-cidq-and-iida-announce-consortium-for-interior-design-advocating-for-public-health-safety-and-well-being (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[211] ASID. "The Importance of Interior Design." ASID (2025). Available at: https://www.asid.org/lib24watch/files/pdf/8572 (Accessed 26 Sept 2026).

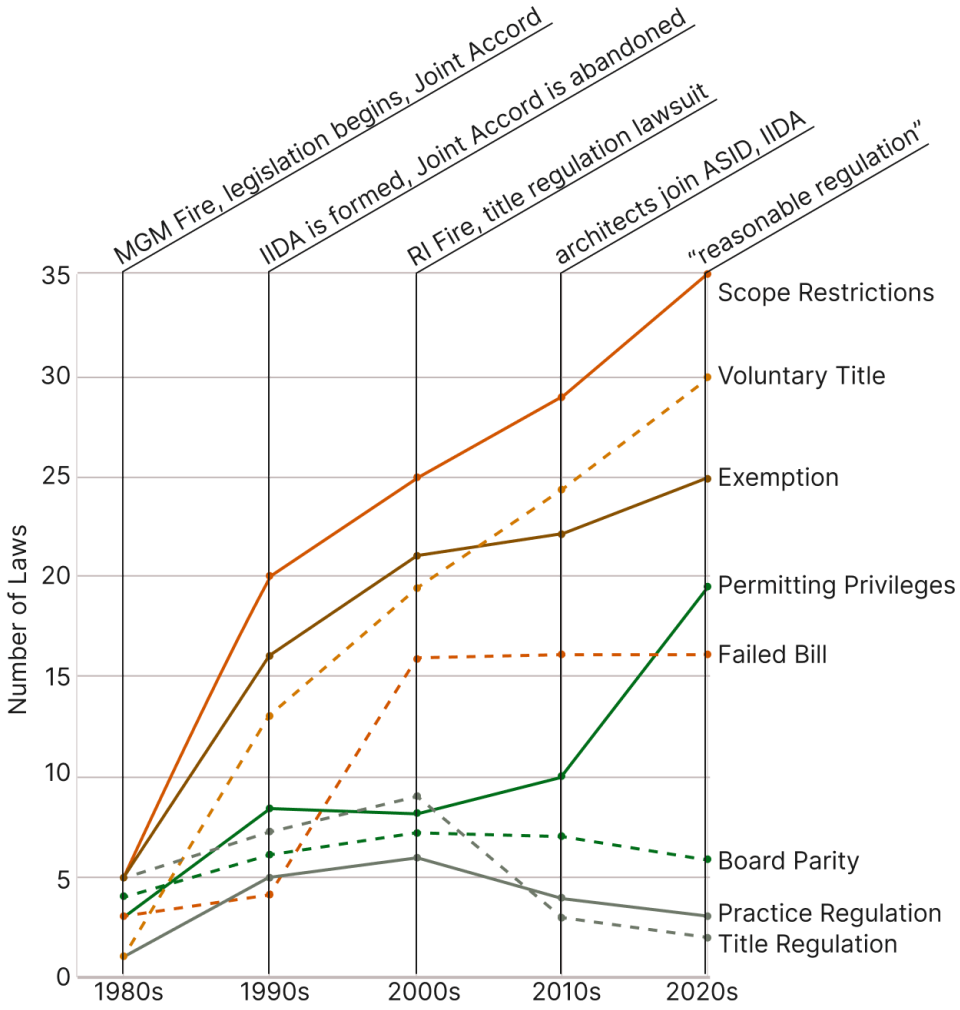
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2.4 Correlations

As shown in the graph on the next page, there a few potential correlations between the events discussed and interior design regulation history:

- The MGM Fire may have indirectly sparked the push for interior design legislation.
- The sudden uptick of failed bills in the 2000s was likely the result of a push for more regulation following the abandonment of the Joint Accord.
- The drop in title regulation in the 2010s was probably caused by the Freedom of Speech lawsuits by the Institute for Justice.
- The continued rise in scope restrictions, voluntary title acts, and exemptions for architects along with the steep rise in permitting privileges and lack of board parity may be the result of “reasonable regulation” and the compromises being made with architects and other licensed professions, such as engineers.

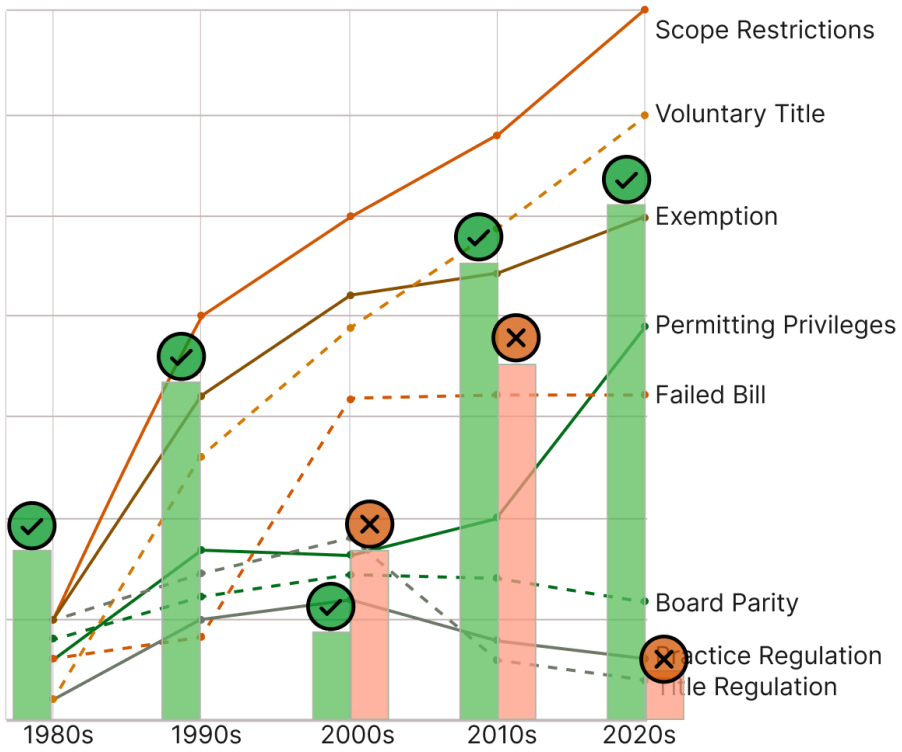
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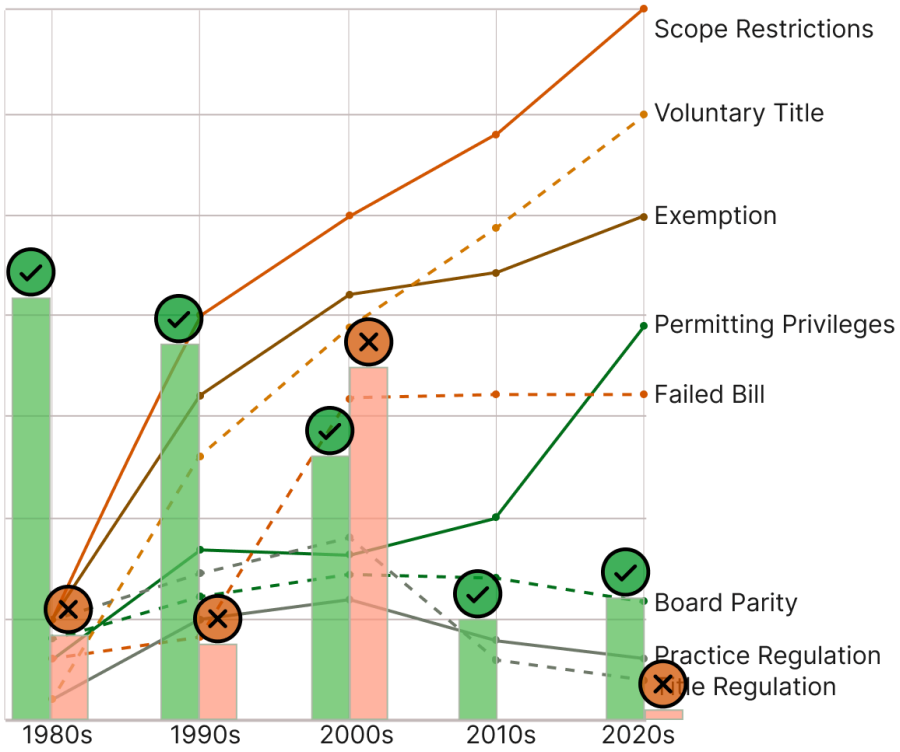
Graph 2.4.1 — U.S. Interior Design Regulation History & Related Events

In addition, the graphs on the next page visualize how the testimony data relates to the regulation history.

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Graph 2.4.2 — AEC Support and Opposition for Interior Design Legislation



Graph 2.4.3 — Interior Designer Support and Opposition for Interior Design Legislation

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Documented opposition testimony has remained relatively low since the 1980s regardless of whether the testimony is from AEC or interior designers. The most significant insights from this data are:

- **The proportion of supporting testimony from interior designers was higher in the 1980s while today it comes mostly from AEC professionals.**
- With the exception of the 2000s, AEC support has grown as architect exemptions, scope restrictions, and voluntary title acts have increased.

Section 3: What is Happening & Why?

3.1 Overview of the Data

Summary

This study sought a comparative analysis of past and current interior design regulation in order to understand the overall impact on the profession.

As shown by Graph 2.1, legislation has shifted from the 1980s mandatory regulation to almost an entirely voluntary system today. This system is characterized by exemptions for other professions, restrictions on an interior designer's scope, and uneven multidisciplinary boards.

In general, the AIA has opposed interior design legislation, especially if a practice act was being proposed, while interior design organizations, ASID, IIDA (or its predecessors), and interior design coalition groups, have supported or even introduced legislation. For example, per The Washington Post, regarding D.C.'s legislation in the 1980s, the primary opponent was AIA and the primary supporter was ASID.[212]

However, testimony data shows a noticeable increase in support for the 2020s "reasonable regulation" of interior design from AEC professionals, even if their own professional organizations (i.e. AIA) oppose it. **Therefore, the data suggests that the majority of proponents for "reasonable regulation" is coming from AEC professionals, so independent designers' views are unclear.**

[212] Gillman, Todd J. "Architects Fight D.C. Law Licensing Interior Designers." The Washington Post, 23 Aug 1987. Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/business/1987/08/24/architects-fight-dc-law-licensing-interior-designers/b4afb5fa-aa7e-4b59-9536-3fd85ecd9963/ (Accessed 26 Sept 2026).

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How We Measured

We quantified each state's regulatory history for each decade based on the following parameters:

- **Exemption**: If a state's legislation explicitly exempts other licensed professionals, not just implied (i.e. a voluntary title act).
- **Board parity**: If the board overseeing interior design legislation is a dedicated interior design board without influence from other licensed professions or a multidisciplinary one with equal seats for each profession.
- **Failed bill**: A count of the number of significant bills introduced but not passed for each decade for a state. In a few cases, these bills were attempts to dismantle existing legislation.
- **Permitting privileges**: If legislation grants interior designers permitting privileges. To count, the law must define what the designer can stamp, and it must reflect a practical definition of interior design. For example, we excluded Alaska since the scope of what a designer can stamp is undefined. We also excluded Puerto Rico since in practice the territory regulates interior decorating, not interior design, and we could not find any legislation granting interior designers permitting privileges.
- **Regulation - Title**: If legislation restricts the title "interior designer."
- **Regulation - Practice**: If legislation restricts who can practice the defined scope of interior design. In reality, today's legislation that falls under this category only restricts commercial design practice. Today we exclude Florida and Nevada since they had distinct updates to their legislation that altered the wording of their laws to make the practice acts vague and enforcement questionable.
- **Scope restrictions**: If legislation restricts an activity that in practice falls within an interior designer's scope. We count wording that indicates building systems or life safety since interior designers create power and data plans, place and specify plumbing fixtures, and develop life safety plans that include the placement of exit signs and fire extinguishers. We also count broadly restrictive architecture or engineering exclusions since each of the profession's definitions are broad and when taken literally can be implied as including interior design. For example, the "spaces within" language in most state's "practice of architecture" is assumed to mean interior design.
- **Voluntary - Title**: These are laws that protect a title for interior designers that has another word (i.e. "certified," "registered," or "licensed") prepended to the title "interior designer." These acts also explicitly include language stating that anyone can call themselves an interior designer.

If a state, district, or territory meets the requirement of a category for a particular decade, with the exception of "failed bill," it receives a count of 1. Otherwise, the number stays at 0. Failed bills are summed to show the approximate number of bills that failed to pass in a decade.

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For witness information, Individual testimonies were grouped first by whether they were for or against a bill. Then each group was subdivided by the following categories:

- **AEC**: a licensed architect, architecture student, degreed in architecture, interior designer working at an architecture firm, landscape architect, engineer, general contractor. Interior designers working at AEC firms are included here since they are not working independently or working for an independent interior designer.
- **Interior Design**: owner of or employee at an interior design firm, kitchen/bath designer, interior design student.
- **Other**: salesperson, manufacturer, lawyer, lobbyist, realtor, educator, or unconfirmed.

We then summarized the data by decade into opposing and supporting testimony charts. After that, we focused on just the AEC and interior design testimony, illustrating percentages in both a line graph and a bar graph format. The bar graph was overlaid on the regulation history line graph in order to afford direct comparison to legislative changes.

3.2 Conclusions

What Changed and When?

- **1980s**: The MGM fire, at least in part, may have prompted a need to regulate interior design and led to Alabama initiating it. However, architects quickly fought against it, leading interior design organizations to make significant compromises under the Joint Accord.
- **1990s**: Interior design organizations did not stop pushing for practice acts, sometimes successfully, leading to the Joint Accord being abandoned.
- **2000s**: There was a significant push for legislation as noted by the number of failed bills. However, at the end of the decade the regulation of the title “interior designer” was legally challenged in multiple states.
- **2010s**: The previous decade’s legal challenges, including the 2009 Texas injunction, led to a sharp decline in title regulation and a small decline in the few states that had practice regulation. During this decade, ASID and IIDA both opened their top tier memberships to architects.
- **2020s**: What may have been a result of internal influence by architects has led to the push for “reasonable regulation” which has been widely supported by AEC professionals. Looking at the data we collected, this new approach to regulating is yielding a decline in board parity, a sharp increase in permitting privileges, and a continued increase in restrictions, exemptions, and voluntary title acts.

Regardless of the decade, there has been a steady increase since the 1980s in exemptions for architects, restrictions on interior designers, and voluntary title acts.

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Reasonable Regulation: What it is & Who is it for?

The 2020s has been characterized by a push for "reasonable regulation." Based on the data, this form of regulation is characterized by the following:

- Scope restrictions.
- Voluntary title acts.
- Explicit exemptions for architects.
- Permitting privileges.
- Lack of board parity, including the elimination (i.e. Missouri) and threat to eliminate (i.e. California) existing and long-standing interior design boards.

The following facts should be considered when determining who this legislation is for:

- **ASID and IIDA grant architects full membership with the following benefits**:
    - Use of the appellation which communicates competency in interior design.
    - Opportunity to serve on various influential committees, including advocacy.
    - Workshops to teach advocacy skills and direct efforts.
    - Ability to lead local chapters.[213] [214]
- **Interior designers are making compromises, but architects are not reciprocating**:
    - AIA only allows interior designers to join as allied members. This means that interior designers cannot vote on policies, hold offices, or in many cases, even join local chapters.[215]
    - GTM has been investigating a growing trend with architects teaching in interior design programs. In contrast, we could not find an architecture degree program in which interior designers teach their students.
    - There is board disparity that often leaves interior designers with at most two voices on a board with several architects and/or engineers. In addition, the seats for interior designers can be easily filled by an architect since the legislation allows architects to be registered or licensed interior designers without having passed the NCIDQ**.**
- Just prior to the push for reasonable regulation, AIA changed its stance on interior design legislation for the first time since it started in the 1980s.[216]

Thus, we believe that **reasonable regulation is interior design legislation that appeals to architects.** Therefore, this type of regulation may or may not be created to benefit interior designers.

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[213] IIDA. "2026 Membership Benefits Guide." IIDA (2026). Available at: https://d1wci53n4f20tv.cloudfront.net/2026-IIDA-Member-Benefits-Guide.pdf (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
[214] ASID. "Value of Membership." ASID (2026). Available at: https://www.asid.org/belong/value (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).
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[216] CIDQ. AIA Revises Interior Design Opposition Position Statement. Council for Interior Design Qualification, 17 Jan. 2022. Available at: https://www.cidq.org/2022/01/17/aia-revises-interior-design-opposition-position-statement/ (Accessed 22 Sept 2026).

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Is Interior Design Being Deregulated or Absorbed?

While there has been an increase in voluntary title acts due to "reasonable regulation," regulation of interior design has never been very widespread, reaching its peak in the 2000s before lawsuits from the Institute for Justice commenced.

Therefore, it is less likely that interior design is being deregulated since it was not widely regulated to begin with and more likely it is being absorbed into architecture as demonstrated by the following:

- AEC professionals have provided widespread supporting testimony for voluntary title acts that place regulation of interior design under architect- and/or engineer-dominated boards. This hierarchy implies that other licensed professions can control the scope of interior design and their own exemptions.
- Architects are reportedly active members of the interior design organizations that created "reasonable regulation." Because the timing of this legislation falls about ten years after architects were invited to have more influence in ASID and IIDA, it is likely that architects contributed to the creation of "reasonable regulation."
- Most architecture statutes include within the definition of the "practice of architecture" "spaces within" language which if interpreted as "interior design" ensures architects can legally practice interior design without any additional credentials. In contrast, interior designers are prohibited under "reasonable regulation" from practicing anything that constitutes architecture. Therefore, it can be argued in states with this language that only architects are permitted to practice interior design.

We assume that **absorption of interior design into architecture guarantees future profits for architects.** While new construction makes up about 69% of commercial construction projects in the United States, renovations are showing a faster growth rate, increasing the demand for interior design professionals.[217]

How has support for interior design legislation changed since the 1980s?

Interior design support for legislation has not necessarily decreased, but instead is being overpowered by massive support from AEC professionals for voluntary title acts. Public testimonies show:

- The *proportion* of architect versus interior designer support has changed from being largely interior designers in the 1980s to mostly architects and other AEC professionals in the 2020s.
- The number of professionals *documented* as speaking in support of legislation has grown dramatically in the 2020s.
- There is very little *documented* opposition.

[217] Mordor Intelligence. "North America Construction Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026-2031)." Mordor Intelligence, 11 Sept 2026. Available at: https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/north-america-construction-market (Accessed 9 Oct 2026).

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Based on the data, the primary advocates for today's legislation are professional organizations with lobbyists, such as ASID, and those employed by AEC firms.[218]

Therefore, we can say with confidence that support from architects for interior design legislation has grown over time, but, due to a lack of opposition data, **we cannot confirm based on testimony data alone if independent interior designers largely support today's voluntary title acts.**

3.3 What's Next?

Questions

While this report revealed several facts concerning interior design regulation in the United States, it also led to the following questions:

- Considering all the restrictions, are interior designers actually able to practice independently under "reasonable regulation"?
- Considering that the timing of architects joining ASID and IIDA coincides with the widespread rollout of today's voluntary and restrictive interior design legislation, did architects in fact create "reasonable regulation"?
- Considering interior design is a distinct profession from architecture, why does any interior design legislation have to first pass the judgement of architects?
- Considering that most interior design legislation allows architects to be registered or certified interior designers with only their architecture license, are interior designers on these multidisciplinary boards in fact architects and not interior designers?

Accurate answers to these questions can likely be obtained from primary research (i.e. surveys, interviews) and additional secondary research.

[218] AxD. "Contact ASID GPA." ASID (2026). Available at: https://www.asid.org/advocate-by-design (Accessed 8 Nov 2026).

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What We Advocate For Based on this and Previous Reports

We support *equitable* interior design legislation that includes the following elements:

- **Accurate definitions**, including:
    - A well-defined interior design scope that includes the creation of all required construction drawings (i.e. life safety plans, reflected ceiling plans, power and data plans), coordination with other licensed professionals, placement of building system and life safety fixtures (i.e. outlets, sinks, lighting, exit signage, fire extinguishers), and construction administration.
    - A definition of space planning that explicitly includes placement of partitions.
    - A definition of non-structural, non-loadbearing walls that explicitly excludes walls that support the weight of the building but includes partial-height walls and partitions, including those requiring internal bracing for wall-mounted elements and/or kickbacks to the underside of the floor above.
- **Reciprocal language**: If the definition of interior design cannot include certain professions, then those professions must also state that they do not include the practice of interior design. This includes removing “spaces within” or other interior design language from the definition of the “practice of architecture.”
- **Unlimited coordination with other professionals**: Licensed interior designers shall not be limited on who they can hire and coordinate with in order to complete their work. This includes hiring an architect and/or engineer(s) when needed.
- **No restriction on occupancy groups, project cost, or square footage**: Licensed interior designers shall be allowed to work on interiors projects without limits on occupancy group, square footage, or project cost and are charged with being responsible for hiring other licensed professionals when required.
- **Unbiased permitting privileges**: Authority to stamp, sign, and submit drawings for plan check and permit without any additional notes or a unique shape to the stamp, unless these are also required of other licensed professionals. Building officials shall be trained on the difference between architecture, engineering, and interior design professions so that a licensed interior designer’s drawings are not rejected due to the lack of an architect’s or engineer’s stamp.
- **Board Parity**: Multidisciplinary boards with equal seats for each profession or independent interior design boards with only interior designers and public members. In the case of multidisciplinary boards, matters pertaining to a specific profession can only be voted upon by that profession.
- **Regulation**: Regulation of the practice of interior design and the title interior designer. If for some reason the regulation of the title “interior designer” is truly a First Amendment violation, then the same holds true for all other professions and their laws must be adjusted accordingly.

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- **Interior architecture deregulation**: No regulation of the title “interior architect” or the practice of “interior architecture” with the eventual ban of the use of these terms in order to provide the public with clarity.
- **Experience-only licensure paths**: Licensure options for interior designers without an education that adds required years of experience equivalent to the missing education.
- **Two licenses**: Residential and commercial interior design licenses, each with their own examination requirements as decided upon by the designers in each of those markets.
- **Fair fees and penalties**: Licensing fees for both first timers and renewals as well as penalties for misuse or negligence matching those of other licensed professions.
- **Zero exemptions**: No exemptions for other professionals. If someone wants to be an interior designer and practice interior design, they must meet the requirements outlined in the law. No exceptions.
- **Educator requirements**: To teach interior design students in higher education, the instructor must have an interior design license and, if a studio course, they must have the corresponding interior design license. In other words, residential design studio instructors must have their residential interior design license and commercial design studio instructors must have their commercial interior design license.

The bottom line: Equitable legislation is the only path we see to regulating interior design. It justifies the profession, protects the public, and educates stakeholders.

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The Green Tape Measure welcomes questions, feedback, collaboration inquiries, and constructive dialogue from members of the public, design professionals, researchers, legislators, and regulatory bodies.

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