
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 303

Senate Amendment 1

2019 Senate Bill 303 makes changes to the regulation of interior designers, which are registered by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). The bill modifies the criteria for registration as an interior designer, authorizes registered interior designers to sign and seal their work, and redefines the term “interior design.” Senate Amendment 1 changes the bill’s definition of interior design.

CURRENT LAW

Current law defines “interior design” to mean the design of interior spaces in conformity with public health, safety, and welfare requirements, including the following:

- The preparation of documents relating to space planning, finish materials, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.
- The preparation of documents relating to interior construction that does not substantially affect the mechanical or structural systems of a building.

The statutes also specify that interior design does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or the practice of professional engineering.

2019 SENATE BILL 303

The bill changes the definition of “interior design” to mean the design of interior spaces as part of an interior alteration or construction project¹ in conformity with public health, safety, and welfare requirements, including the following:

- The preparation of documents relating to interior life safety, space planning, finish materials, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment. “Interior life safety” is defined to mean the analysis, development, interpretation, review, and employment of space plans or interior components for existing or proposed interior spaces to provide for compliance with a building code or other law, ordinance, or rule to eliminate, reduce, or control life-threatening or health-threatening situations, including to provide for egress or ingress to horizontal fire exit ways leading to predetermined vertical fire exit ways.

¹ The term “interior alteration or construction project” means a project for an interior space or area within a proposed or existing building or structure, including construction, modification, renovation, rehabilitation, or historic preservation, that involves changing or altering any of the following: the design function or layout of rooms; the state of permanent fixtures or equipment; the interior space or area if the change or alteration requires verification of the compliance of the interior space or area with a building code, fire code, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, or state or local regulation; interior office furniture; and nonstructural elements of the interior space or area.

- The preparation of interior technical submissions² relating to interior construction that does not substantially affect the mechanical or structural systems of a building.

In contrast to current law, the bill does not include language specifying that interior design does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or the practice of professional engineering.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Under the amendment, the term “interior design” is defined to mean the design of interior spaces as part of an interior alteration or construction project in conformity with public health, safety, and welfare requirements, including the following:

- The preparation of documents relating to building code descriptions, egress plans, space planning, finish materials, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.
- The preparation of interior technical submissions relating to interior construction that does not affect the mechanical or structural systems of a building.

The amendment specifies that interior design does not include services that constitute the practice of professional engineering. There is, however, no language in the amendment, which specifies that interior design does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Kapenga introduced the bill on June 21, 2019, and Senators Kapenga and Johnson introduced the amendment on January 6, 2020. On January 21, 2020, the Senate adopted the amendment and passed the bill, as amended.

AB:ksm

² The term “interior technical submission” means a design, drawing, specification, study, or other technical report or calculation that establishes the scope of an interior design project, including a description of standards of quality for materials, skilled labor, equipment, and construction systems, and that is signed and sealed by a registered interior designer.