



CHRIS KAPENGA

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 303 Testimony

Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations

Tuesday September 10th, 2019

Thank you committee members for hearing testimony on Senate Bill 303 relating to the practice of interior designers. I also want to thank Representatives Horlacher and Stubbs as well as Senator Johnson for authoring this bill with me. Wisconsin has a voluntary registration option for interior designers. This registration requires industry recognized credentialing, and rigorous testing. However, Wisconsin's registered Interior Designers still must jump through additional hoops to be able to utilize their knowledge and qualifications.

With this bill, we hope to join eleven other states in eliminating a costly procedural step that registered interior designers must go through to conduct business. Under current law, registered interior designers must pay for and get approval from an architect on remodeling plans within the scope of their training. Registered Interior Designers are trained on and prevented from making any kind of structural changes; however, they are still required to get an architect's approval before proceeding with their plans. Acquiring an architect's stamp or seal can be expensive, typically a percentage of the total project cost. This only serves to delay projects, require unnecessary time, and put businesses at a competitive disadvantage. Some critics have tried to discredit the qualifications of registered designers, but to be eligible for registration, a designer must pass a comprehensive exam including questions relating to codes and standards.

Allowing registered interior designers to seal their own remodeling plans will enable them to deliver an interior build-out project faster, hire fewer outside consultants, and compete for more projects. The option to engage an interior designer, thus increasing competition, is a financial benefit to the client as well. The seal privilege will allow businesses the ability to grow and compete in the construction industry within their statutory scope, without having to pay for the approval of another profession.

Additionally, this bill aims to eliminate barriers to entry for interior design registration by removing burdensome standards identified by professionals in the interior design field. Nationally, developers often require interior designers to have passed the NCIDQ exam to be eligible to work on their projects, recognizing the exam as an effective measure of quality and reliability. LRB 3401 brings the state in line with the national industry standard and eliminates unnecessary additional requirements.

Thank you Chair and Committee members for your time and consideration of this bill.



STATE SENATOR
LaTonya Johnson

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

6TH DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations
Testimony on Senate Bill 303
September 10, 2019

Good morning members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this proposal—Senate Bill 303—which, among other changes, requires DSPS to establish rules that will allow registered interior designers to stamp and seal their own plans. This bill modernizes our state credentialing regulations for interior designers to recognize their high level of education and training and allow designers to work independently at the top of their scope of practice.

The ability to stamp and seal construction documents for building permits is an essential part of a design professional's practice. Upon passage of SB 303, Wisconsin would join 11 other states in allowing qualified interior designers to stamp and seal their own design documents for non-structural construction projects. In Wisconsin, this practice right is granted to architects and engineers, but denied to registered interior designers, even for projects that are completely non-structural. This architectural oversight is unnecessary given the comparable interior design expertise and educational requirements between the two professions, and puts registered interior designers at a competitive disadvantage in the marketplace for design projects. The current requirements also cost consumers money by adding additional costs to projects—usually a percentage of the total project cost—for this extra approval of plans that have already been drafted and completed by a qualified interior designer.

SB 303 will empower interior designers to operate independently of architectural firms and provide for greater competition for design contracts. It will also alleviate disparities among design professionals by putting interior design, which has been a common entry point for women in the design professions, on an equal footing with architecture when providing similar services.

As you will hear from practitioners in the field, registered interior designers are extremely accomplished professionals who have the training and experience necessary to draft design plans in a way that protects public health and safety, and Wisconsin should recognize this fact by allowing them to sign and seal their own plans for non-structural interior construction projects.

Once again, thank you to my co-authors, Senator Kapenga, Representative Horlacher, and Representative Stubbs for their work on this bill, and thank you, committee members, for your consideration of this important proposal.



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September 10th, 2019

Chairman Kapenga and Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations Committee
Members,

Thank you for holding a Public Hearing on SB 303 related to registration and the scope of practice of interior designers.

It has been my honor to work with Senators Kapenga and Johnson, Representative Stubbs, and stakeholders on this legislation.

This legislation allows for interior designers to seal their own remodeling plans. This bill will help to streamline the process for those involved in the process of interior design.

We need to support interior designers, who are often small business owners. This legislation will allow for greater flexibility and bring our state in line with 11 other states in the country. This will also help to reduce the barriers to entry in the interior design profession.

I believe we need to support SB 303 and continue the important work of examining our licensure, certification, and registration processes and identifying and supporting alternative options for those who are living and working in these occupations every day. Through consultation with a variety of stakeholders across occupations we can work to identify things that work and things that need to be revisited.

I support SB 303 and I hope that you will join Senators Kapenga and Johnson and Representative Stubbs and I in supporting SB 303 as well.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions.

Good Afternoon Chairman Kapenga and members of the Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations. My name is Abigail Wilson, the public policy and grassroots advocacy manager for the International Interior Design Association. Our association represents more than 15,000 members globally, including over 260 members here in Wisconsin. Our average member is in her mid- to late-thirties, with an interior design degree, often from a state university, has passed a national qualification exam, and designs complex interior environments in hotels, retail outlets, medical practices and offices, assisted living and nursing homes, and business offices. Commercial interior designers work in complex teams often with architects, engineers, contractors, union tradesman, developers, and independent consultants. I on behalf of our members and designers in Wisconsin, urge you to support SB303.

Commercial interior design developed in the post-war era as Americans began to spend more and more of their time indoors. Today, nearly all Midwesterners' lives are indoors. This shift in how we live our lives is the fundamental reason for commercial interior design. Commercial interior designers design at the intersection of the technical nature of the built environment with the human element. IIDA only supports voluntary registration such as this bill in Wisconsin. We believe strongly that everyone should have the opportunity to pursue our profession without limitations. However, we also strongly believe that Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers are educated and experienced enough to be able to independently seal their own non-structural interior design documents. This bill would allow these highly educated and trained Registered Interior Designers to do that, which they are currently prevented from doing under outdated state law.

If a Registered Interior Designer is able to work independently by sealing their own documents, it will create greater competition for interior construction projects. As we know, increased competition will drive down prices for clients and consumers. Additionally, it will further save clients money if the interior designer does not have the extra step of submitting their designs to an architect, who then reviews and submits on their behalf. This extra step costs the designer to pay the architect plus the extra time to get it approved. For example, today a restaurant owner in Appleton looking to work with a registered interior designer would still need an architect to sign off on the project. Under this bill, that same restaurant owner could work with a specialist in interiors and not wait for the architect to approve the designer's plans. Additionally, this would make Wisconsin on par with Minnesota, which allows designers to seal their documents, and give Wisconsin designers a competitive edge over designers in Illinois or Michigan.

As importantly as improving the opportunities for Wisconsin's predominantly women designers, SB303 also streamlines the requirements to become a RID, ensuring we are creating no additional state boards or regulatory agencies, maintains reciprocity through the current DSPS-approved exam, and allowing anyone to call themselves an interior designer. This bill does not allow a registered interior designer to practice architecture or engineering.

Please support SB303 that will expand economic opportunities for Wisconsin's predominantly female registered interior designers, reduce cost and time for clients, and will not prevent anyone from working as they do today.

Thank you.



Public Hearing – 2019 Senate Bill 303

Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing & State-Federal Relations

Committee Chair & Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed legislation that would significantly revise existing state law governing the registration of interior designers and expand the scope of interior design practice.

I am Jennifer Lehrke, AIA, the principal architect, founder and president of Legacy Architecture, a four-person Sheboygan firm focused on historic preservation, residential and commercial projects. I also serve as the 2019 Secretary/Treasurer of AIA Wisconsin, the state society of the American Institute of Architects.

I am testifying today on behalf of AIA Wisconsin members in opposition to 2019 Senate Bill 303. This proposed legislation is unnecessary and confusing. It would not protect the consumer or enhance public safety. It offers a solution in search of a problem.

**The American
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Wisconsin is one of 19 states, including neighboring Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, that have “title” registration laws for interior designers with no permitting authority. This means anyone can offer to provide interior design services. Wisconsin only regulates the use of a specific title – “Wisconsin registered interior designer.” In addition, 21 other states, including Michigan, have no state laws related to interior design.

It is relevant that the *Wisconsin Occupational Licensing Study Legislative Report*, submitted by the Department of Safety & Professional Services in December 2018, recommended the elimination of the state’s current title registration for interior designers. The report noted that “only 4 other states regulate” the practice of interior design and that the “regulation of interior designers has been identified by several studies as the most burdensome licensing requirement of all occupations.”

The purpose of laws in Wisconsin and all other states governing the practice of architecture and professional engineering is to protect public health and safety. Interior designers in Wisconsin already may provide services on larger commercial building projects than their counterparts in most other states. No seal or stamp is required to provide interior design services for building projects in Wisconsin containing less than 50,000 cubic feet in total volume. Architects and professional engineers are required for larger commercial building projects.

The proposed legislation contains new terms and new definitions for “interior design,” “interior alteration or construction project,” “interior life safety” and “interior technical submission” that lack clarity and are subject to interpretation. It would delete language in existing definition that: “Interior design’ does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or the practice of professional engineering.” It offers no clear line of demarcation, which will create overlap and confusion.

The proposal also does not require the disclosure of conflicts of interest when an interior designer is receiving a commission or compensation for specifying specific products or materials on projects. It also does not adjust continuing education requirements related to health, safety and welfare issues to reflect the proposed expanded scope of interior design practice.

Founded in 1911, AIA Wisconsin represents over 1,500 individual members, including architects in private practice, business, industry, government and education.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to Senate Bill 303. We encourage you to vote against recommending passage. I would be pleased to respond to any questions.



AIA
Wisconsin

Wisconsin Interior Design Legislation

Proposed legislation has been introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature – 2019 Senate Bill 303 and 2019 Assembly Bill 324 – that would significantly revise existing state law governing the registration of interior designers and the scope of interior design practice.

AIA Wisconsin is opposed to the proposed legislation. The following highlights the serious concerns that architects have with this proposal:

- Currently, anyone can call themselves an interior designer and provide interior design services. Wisconsin only regulates the use of a specific title – “Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer.” There is **no evidence of a threat to public health and safety** as a result of existing state law.
- **Wisconsin is one of 19 states**, including neighboring Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa, that have **title registration for interior designers with no permitting authority**. In addition, 21 other states, including Michigan, do not regulate interior designers at all.
- The Wisconsin Occupational Licensing Study Legislative Report, submitted by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) in December 2018, **recommended the elimination of the state’s current title registration for interior designers**. The report noted that “only 4 other states regulate” the practice of interior design and that the **“regulation of interior designers has been identified by several studies as the most burdensome licensing requirement of all occupations.”**
- The purpose of laws in all 50 states governing the practice of architecture and professional engineering is to **protect public health and safety**. It is important to recognize that the pursuit of faster and cheaper buildings may conflict with the critical goal of state licensing requirements to protect the safety of the public.
- Interior designers in Wisconsin **already may provide services on larger commercial building projects than their counterparts in most other states**. Wisconsin allows any person, firm or corporation to prepare plans and supervise the construction of buildings containing less than 50,000 cubic feet in total volume, which is one of the largest exemptions allowed by any state. In addition, state law allows anyone to make repairs or interior alterations to buildings which do not affect health or safety.
- The proposed legislation would delete existing statutory education and experience requirements, relying instead on requirements established by an independent nonprofit organization (Council for Interior Design Qualification). This would **effectively remove legislative oversight** of this aspect of the interior designer registration process.
- The proposed legislation contains new definitions for “interior design,” “interior alteration or construction project,” “interior life safety” and “interior technical submission” that lack clarity and are subject to interpretation. The proposal **fails to delineate a clear separation between interior design services and professional services that require the involvement of an architect or professional engineer**.

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- The proposal does not address professional conduct such as requiring **disclosure when an interior designer is receiving a commission or compensation for the sale of materials they specify**. In contrast, state rules governing the professional conduct of architects and professional engineers require, among other things, that clients be immediately informed of any conflicts of interest and that nothing of value may be solicited or accepted from material or equipment suppliers in return for specifying a product.
- **No interior designer section or board at DSPS** is proposed in the legislation to assist with the interpretation and enforcement of the licensing requirements. In contrast, each section of the Joint Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers and Professional Land Surveyors has three professional members and two public members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The sections review complaints and enforce statutory requirements as well as resolve potential gaps and overlaps among the represented design professions.
- Wisconsin registered interior designers are required to complete at least 9 hours of **continuing education** every two years, **but none of these hours need to be related to health, safety and welfare** issues. In comparison, architects are required to complete at least 24 hours of continuing education every two years, with at least 16 hours related to health, safety and welfare.

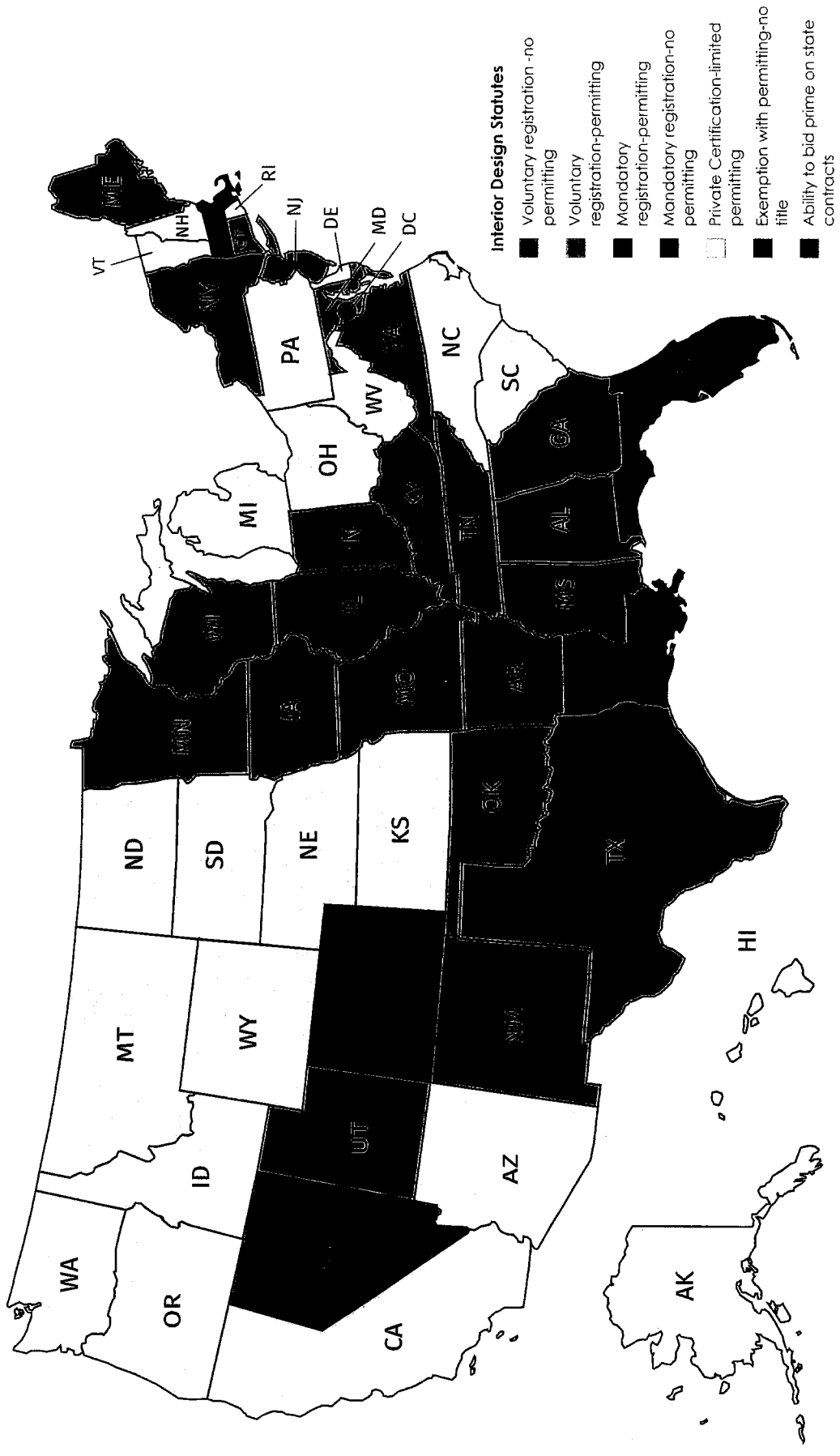
AIA Wisconsin

Founded in 1911, AIA Wisconsin is the state society of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). with over 1,500 individual members, AIA Wisconsin represents architects and allied professionals in private practice, business, industry, government and education.

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State Interior Design Laws



**SUBCHAPTER X
INTERIOR DESIGNERS
[REVISIONS PROPOSED BY 2019 SENATE BILL 303 + ASSEMBLY BILL 324 IN RED]**

440.96 Definitions. In this subchapter:

(1g) "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:

- (a) The design function or layout of rooms.
- (b) The state of permanent fixtures or equipment.
- (c) 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 regulations.

(d) Interior office furniture.

(e) Nonstructural elements of the interior space or area.

(1r) "Interior design" means the design of interior spaces as a part of an interior alteration or construction project in conformity with public health, safety and welfare requirements, including the preparation of documents relating to interior life safety, space planning, finish materials, furnishings, fixtures and equipment and the preparation of documents interior technical submissions relating to interior construction that does not substantially affect the mechanical or structural systems of a building. ~~"Interior design" does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or the practice of professional engineering.~~

(2m) "Interior life safety" means 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.

(3) "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 Wisconsin registered interior designer in compliance with this subchapter.

(4) "Wisconsin registered interior designer" means a person registered as a Wisconsin registered interior designer under this subchapter.

440.961 Use of title. No person may use the title "Wisconsin registered interior designer", use any title or description that implies that he or she is a Wisconsin registered interior designer or represent himself or herself to be a Wisconsin registered interior designer unless the person is registered as a Wisconsin registered interior designer under this subchapter.

440.962 Registration requirements. The department shall register as a Wisconsin registered interior designer an individual who submits an application to the department on a form provided by the department and who satisfies one of the following requirements:

- ~~(a) Submits to the department evidence satisfactory to the department of any of the following:~~
- ~~1. That he or she is a graduate of a 5-year interior design or architecture program and has at least one year of practical experience in interior design of a character satisfactory to the department.~~
 - ~~2. That he or she is a graduate of a 4-year interior design or architecture program and has at least 2 years of practical experience in interior design of a character satisfactory to the department.~~

3. That he or she has completed at least 3 years of an interior design program and has at least 3 years of practical experience in interior design of a character satisfactory to the department.

4. That he or she is a graduate of a 2 year interior design program and has at least 4 years of practical experience in interior design of a character satisfactory to the department.

(b) Satisfies the applicable requirements under s. 440.964.

(c) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, submits evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she does not have an arrest or conviction record.

(d) Submits the names of at least 5 references, at least 3 of whom shall have personal knowledge of the applicant's interior designing experience.

(1) (am) Passes an interior design examination approved by the department that is administered by an organization approved by the department.

(e) Meets any other requirements established by the department by rule.

(2) The individual is registered as an architect under s. 443.03 and submits evidence satisfactory to the department of all of the following:

(a) That he or she is a graduate of a 4-year architecture program.

(b) That he or she has at least 6 years of demonstrated practical experience in interior design of a character satisfactory to the department.

440.963 Use of title by firms, partnerships and corporations. (1) A firm, partnership or corporation may use the term "Wisconsin registered interior designer" or "Wisconsin registered interior designers", or may advertise or make representations that it provides the services of a Wisconsin registered interior designer, only if at least one principal, partner or officer who is in responsible charge of the interior design services provided by the firm, partnership or corporation is a Wisconsin registered interior designer.

(2) No firm, partnership or corporation may be relieved of responsibility for the conduct or acts of its agents, employees or officers by reason of its compliance with this subchapter, nor may any individual practicing interior design be relieved of responsibility for interior designing services performed by reason of his or her employment or relationship with the firm, partnership or corporation.

440.964—Examinations. (1) Except as provided in s. 440.962 (2), no person may be registered as a Wisconsin registered interior designer under this subchapter unless he or she passes one of the following examinations:

(a) An interior design examination administered by a national organization that establishes standards for the interior design profession and that is recognized by the department.

(b) An interior design examination conducted or approved by the department under sub. (2) that is substantially equivalent to an examination specified in par. (a).

(2) Written or written and oral examinations under sub. (1) (b) shall be held at such time and place as the department determines. The scope of the examinations and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the department with special reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise interior designing work, which shall promote the public welfare and ensure the safety of life, health and property. The examinations shall include questions which require applicants to demonstrate knowledge of the design needs of people with physical disabilities and of the relevant statutes and codes. Such questions shall be developed by the department in consultation with other appropriate state agencies.

(3) A candidate failing an examination given under sub. (2) may, upon application and payment of the required reexamination fee, be examined again by the department. No restrictions may be placed on the number of times an unsuccessful candidate may be reexamined, except that after failure of 3 reexaminations, the department may require a one-year waiting period before further reexamination.

440.965 Reciprocal registration. The department may, upon application and payment of the required fee, grant a permit certificate of registration to use the title "Wisconsin registered interior designer" to a person who is not a resident of and has no established place of business in this state, or who has recently become a resident of this state, if the person holds an unexpired certificate of similar registration issued to the person by the proper authority in any state or territory or possession of the United States or in any country in which the requirements for the registration of interior designers are of a standard not lower than specified in this subchapter.

440.966 Renewal; continuing education. (1) The renewal date for a certificate of registration issued under this subchapter is specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a), and the renewal fee for such certificate of registration is determined by the department under s. 440.03 (9) (a).

(2) A Wisconsin registered interior designer shall, at the time that he or she applies for renewal of a certificate of registration under sub. (1), submit proof of completion of continuing education requirements established by rules promulgated by the department.

440.967 List of registered persons. The department shall prepare each year a list showing the names and business addresses of all persons registered as a Wisconsin registered interior designer under this subchapter. Upon request, the department shall provide a list prepared under this section to any person at cost.

440.968 Discipline; prohibited acts; penalties. (1) The department may reprimand a Wisconsin registered interior designer, or may limit, suspend or revoke the certificate of registration of a Wisconsin registered interior designer, who has done any of the following:

(a) Committed any fraud or deceit in obtaining or renewing a certificate of registration under this subchapter.

(b) Committed any gross negligence or misconduct, or acted in a grossly incompetent manner, in the practice of interior design as a Wisconsin registered interior designer.

(c) Violated this subchapter or a rule promulgated under this subchapter.

(d) Been convicted of a felony, subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, or been adjudicated mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction, a certified copy of the record of conviction or adjudication of incompetency to be conclusive evidence of such conviction or incompetency.

(e) Signed or impressed his or her seal upon a document not prepared by him or her or knowingly permitted his or her seal to be used by another person

(2) Any person who uses the title "Wisconsin registered interior designer" in this state and who is not registered in accordance with this subchapter, or any person presenting or attempting to use as his or her own the certificate of registration of another, or any person who falsely impersonates any other registrant of like or different name, or any person who attempts to use an expired or revoked certificate of registration, may be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 3 months or both.

(3) Any person may allege to the department that he or she believes a person registered under this subchapter has committed an act for which a reprimand or limitation, suspension or revocation of registration is authorized under sub. (1). Such allegations shall be in writing, and shall be sworn to by the person making them and shall be submitted to the department. The department may, on its own motion, make such charges.

(4) The department may reissue a certificate of registration to any person whose certificate has been revoked under sub. (1) if the person satisfies requirements for reissuance established by the department. The department may issue a new certificate of registration to replace any certificate

revoked, lost, destroyed or mutilated, subject to the rules of the department and the payment of the required fee.

440.969 Change of name. No person who is registered as a Wisconsin registered interior designer under this subchapter may practice interior design in this state under any other given name or any other surname than that under which the person was originally registered to use a title in this or any other state if the department, after a hearing, finds that using a title under the changed name operates to unfairly compete with another practitioner or to mislead the public as to identity or to otherwise result in detriment to the profession or the public. This section does not apply to a change of name resulting from marriage or divorce.

440.9693 Seal or stamp. (1) (a) The department shall promulgate rules establishing specifications for seals and stamps used by Wisconsin registered interior designers.

(b) No Wisconsin registered interior designer may impress his or her seal or stamp upon a document unless the seal or stamp satisfies the specifications established by rule under par. (a).

(2) A Wisconsin registered interior designer who is responsible for preparing an interior technical submission for delivery to any person or for a public record shall date, sign, and impress his or her seal or stamp upon the interior technical submission and any other related documents prepared by the Wisconsin registered interior designer.

(3) No Wisconsin registered interior designer may impress his or her seal or stamp upon a document that has not been prepared by the Wisconsin registered interior designer or knowingly permit his or her seal or stamp to be used by any other person.

440.9696 Submission of documents. (1) Subject to s. 440.9693 (3), a Wisconsin registered interior designer may sign and seal interior technical submissions that are required for an interior alteration or construction project for public record.

(2) If a city, village, town, or county requires a seal or stamp on interior technical submissions that are submitted for an interior alteration or construction project, the city, village, town, or county shall accept interior technical submissions impressed with the seal or stamp of a Wisconsin registered interior designer consistent with this subchapter.

Initial applicability. (1) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. The treatment of ss. 440.962 (1) (a), (am), (b), (c), (d) and 440.964 first applies to an application submitted on the effective date of this subsection to the department of safety and professional services for registration as an interior designer.

Effective dates. This act takes effect on the day after publication, except as follows: (1) SEALS AND STAMPS. The treatment of s. 440.9693 takes effect on the first day of the 7th month beginning after publication.



Proponent Testimony, Wisconsin Senate Bill 303
Testimony before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal
Relations

Robin A. Stroebel, ASID, WRID, LEED AP ID + C

CEO

InteriorLOGIC, Inc.

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Madison, WI

September 10, 2019

Noon

Chairman Senator Kapenga, Vice-Chair Senator Olsen, Senator Craig, Senator LeMahieu, Senator Johnson, and Senator Hansen, I welcome this opportunity to express my support for SB303, which provides Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers (WRID) with the essential practice right of the ability to stamp, seal and submit our own drawings as required for approval.

My name is Robin Stroebel. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in the Interior Design program, which was, and still is, a nationally recognized design program certified by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). In 1980, I passed the National Certification for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), the broad-based national interior design qualification exam and the basis of interior design education.

After 11 years of interior design experience at a contract furniture dealership, I started my independent design firm, InteriorLOGIC, in 1989. This year we are celebrating our 30th year in business.

InteriorLOGIC is a small, woman-owned business, certified as a W0BE by the State of Wisconsin DOA, specializing in planning, design and implementation of corporate and commercial interiors, including office, government, manufacturing, and retail buildings and spaces, primarily in Wisconsin, but also in other areas of the country as our clients require. We have designed thousands of projects, and worked with hundreds of clients. We have earned numerous ASID design awards and many other honors for our clients. We are a Wisconsin Registered Interior Design firm and employ 3 Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers on our staff.

As a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for 40 years, I have served in many positions and committees for the organization both in Wisconsin and at the national level, and am currently the chair of the WI ASID Government Advocacy Committee. I

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also am a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) professional and hold a specialty in Interior Design and Construction.

In 1995, I worked with other many other Wisconsin interior designers to help pass legislation that created the title of Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer. Upon passage of that bill, I immediately registered to become a Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer, having previously passed the required NCIDQ as required. My registration number is 44. I am also registered in Illinois and the District of Columbia.

Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers (WRID) are required to take continuing education credits to maintain our technical expertise and our WRID designation, and as required by our two professional organizations. For example, in fall of 2019, ASID Wisconsin sponsored a 6 CEU course provided by the International Code Council covering in-depth the 2015 Chapter 10 Means of Egress to over 50 interior designers eager to learn, and to maintain their credentials.

Interior Designers plan interior environments to meet the needs of clients, integrating creative thinking and programming with code-based building requirements, including occupancy type, means of egress (width, distance, number and direction of exits), Americans with Disabilities (ADA), safe, non-flammable materials, slip and trip resistant floor materials, corridor widths, number and distance of exits, and width and direction of door openings, to name a few. We are dedicated to creating safe and sustainable environments

Interior designers have been preparing code-compliant intellectual property for years, as we are educated and trained to do. These documents define the type of space and the needs of the project. They are extensive and thorough, including wall partition plans, wall types, reflected ceiling plans, interior elevations, casework details and schedules, material and finish schedules and specifications, accessible restrooms, and more.

How will SB303 impact us? Up until now, we have had to hire an architect separately to sign and seal our own documents so that our work can be implemented. Approved documents are required for even the smallest projects. For example, we recently completed an interior alteration project, and another project that simply added an ADA restroom. We could have signed and sealed both these sets of plans with the passing of SB303. Instead, we had to hire an outside architect to sign and seal our own code-compliant documents for each of these projects.

What other profession are you aware of that needs to pay another profession to "approve" their work in order to deliver their professional work product? We commonly collaborate with architects, but SB303 will allow interior designers to sign and seal our own drawings for our own

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scope of work, which expands our professional services, substantially expedites the process, broadens the playing field for all designers to work independently, and provides more options for consumers.

Like many interior designers, I have provided years, even decades, of professional services for my clients. Yet, here we are in Wisconsin today, discussing the natural expansion of one of the most basic of professional practice rights of interior designers, the ability to sign and seal our own code-compliant drawings, for our own scope of work, for the purpose of approval by the state or municipality.

As a small business and a woman-owned business, this bill expands the opportunity for me and all interior designers within our own expertise and practice, to sign and seal our own intellectual property, to offer additional services to our clients, and to expand our businesses as an independent profession working in the built-environments.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Wisconsin Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations, thank you for your willingness to listening to the opinion of professional interior designers. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.



American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin

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Thank you Chairman Kapenga and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Chris Klein and I am President of ACEC WI, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin. I am here today representing Wisconsin Professional Engineering companies and we are opposed to SB303.

ACEC WI represents 85 member firms in the state with 168 offices and more than 3,800 employees. Our member firms consist of thousands of professionals engaged in the full spectrum of engineering services from structural, civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering, to surveying and mapping. Engineers design solutions to the challenges we face. They keep people safe; they make the air we breath and the water we drink cleaner; they provide buildings that shelter and roads that connect.

Professional engineers in Wisconsin design systems that protect our water resources. We design facilities that provide flood protection and those used to store, distribute and treat water.

We design transportation systems including highways, bridges and airports.

We design wind and solar energy development, electrical transmission and distribution, dams and hydroelectric engineering.

We design both public and private buildings, whether it's schools, hospitals, military buildings, sports stadiums or corporate offices. The safety of building systems is vital. So is the experience of the people within the building.

Senate Bill 303 removes language that currently makes it clear that Interior Design does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or professional engineering. This existing language helps to prevent an inexperienced and underqualified professional from getting into a position where they are making engineering decisions that impact public health and safety. This change is on lines 9, 10 of the proposal.

Similar Interior Design legislation passed the House in Ohio recently and that legislative language added a section that specifically stated the practice of Interior Design does not authorize a person to practice either architecture or engineering.

Senate Bill 303 also adds the additional ability for Interior Designers to prepare "interior life safety" documents. Adding that ability into Wisconsin statutes would allow Interior Designers to prepare and submit a life safety analysis to control life or health-threatening situations unless it substantially affects the mechanical or structural system of a building.

We have concerns how Interior Design professionals will determine if their design recommendations in life-threatening situations will substantially affect the structural system of a building.

In the same legislation in Ohio, it is made clear that the practice of Interior Design does not include making any changes or additions to any aspect of an interior life safety plan. We would support the same language in Wisconsin.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today and I look forward to working with Senator Kapenga and other committee members on this legislation moving forward.

Chris Klein, President

American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin



September 10, 2019

Proponent Testimony, Wisconsin Senate Bill 303

**Testimony before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Public Benefits,
Licensing and State-Federal Relations**

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Chairman Senator Kapenga, Vice-Chair Senator Olson, Senator Craig, Senator LeMahieu, Senator Johnson, and Senator Hansen, I support Senate Bill #303, providing Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers (WRID) the practice right to seal and submit design and construction drawing for non-structural interior environments.

The Commercial Interior Design Profession is Evolving

I am a licensed architect and Wisconsin registered interior designer. I have both a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Masters of Architecture from UW Milwaukee. I lead a thriving Women Owned (WBE) architecture and interior design practice going on 19 years strong. You may be familiar with some of my interior design projects on the Capitol Square: The Park Hotel renovation, Coopers Tavern and Fromagination – the Cheese Store. Around the state I've provided interior design services for The La Crosse Regional Airport, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport and multiple interior renovations for UW Madison and UW Whitewater. Globally, I have been fortunate to work with one of Wisconsin's prosperous manufacturing companies, Alliance Laundry Systems of Ripon Wisconsin, on a laundry retail prototype for Speed Queen. A design prototype that now has been implemented on five continents.

For all of these projects, my role was Interior Designer. While I have been busy growing an interior focused design firm for almost 20 years, I have also been giving back to my profession.

I am a professional member of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). I have served on the Wisconsin IIDA board for almost ten years. Currently, my position is Vice President of Advocacy. I am a former instructor at MATC specializing in building technology, former mentor at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture and a current member of the advisory board for Interior Architecture at the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Human Ecology (SoHE).



I am a past president of AIA Wisconsin, a statewide Society of the American Institute of Architects (AIA-WI) and member for over 25 years. An organization I have great pride in, however, I respectfully disagree with AIA's policy embracing an economic protectionist position, instilling fear and leading many to believe architects are against this important legislation. As an architect I do not fear acknowledging an interior designer's expertise, their unique skill set and their technical abilities.

I am a strong advocate for the evolving profession of Interior Design.

I support this legislation moving forward:

- There is constant market **demand** for interior build-outs and renovations in office and retail sectors that are underserved by architects.
- Provides **options for Clients** with goals to improve their interior environment
- **Provides greater business Opportunities** to interior designers, a profession that is 75% female. Promoting diversity in our design and construction industry.
- This type of legislation is a model limiting bureaucracy. Registered Interior Designer is a **voluntary registration** for designers that have successfully completed a Nationally recognized exam, experience and training. This is not mandatory licensing. This is a design professional choosing to take on more professional responsibility in their expert field of design and construction.
- This legislation will provide a level playing field. Are you aware that licensed structural engineers have the ability to stamp interior build-out drawings in Wisconsin? Yes, they do. However, Registered Interior Designers, expert in this sector, do not.

The Commercial Interior Design Profession is Evolving:

As interior designers, we bring a unique set of talents and expertise to the interior environment, areas of specialization many architects do not pursue. In airports for example, I focus on security protocols with TSA, anti-microbial surfaces and fire-retardant materials, public spaces that exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations as well as wayfinding and information systems that guide people through complex environments.

Eleven states and jurisdictions in the US now provide a varying degree of professional autonomy for interior designers to seal drawings. Including Nevada, Florida, Colorado, Georgia, California and Utah to name a few. Even Minnesota provides autonomy through administrative rules. This ability to practice interior design in other states may draw our talented graduates and young professionals away from Wisconsin.



DESTREE
architecture & design

Opponents suggest

Education for interior designers is sub-standard to an architect. Some of our earlier testimonies have given specifics on current curriculum. Having taken the architectural path and participating as an advisor for the School of Interior Architecture at SoHe, I have observed that the curriculum is equivalent to my own coursework as an architecture student on codes, accessibility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical coordination.

Regarding Examination & Registrations

There are indeed differences between Architects and Interior Designers. Architects work within the exterior, structural and loadbearing domains of construction. Interior Designers work within the interior non-structural portion of a building. Each national exam process, CIDQ and ARE focuses on equivalent complexities to each profession.

The Commercial Interior Design Profession is Evolving. With that, our legislation and regulations also need to evolve to reflect Wisconsin's values for equity and economic enterprise.

Mr. Chairmen, and members of the Wisconsin Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations, thank you for your bipartisan consideration on this legislation. I am available to address any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Proponent Testimony, Wisconsin Senate Bill 303
Testimony before the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal
Relations

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September 10, 2019
Noon

Chairman Senator Kapenga, Vice-Chair Senator Olsen, Senator Craig, Senator LeMahieu, Senator Johnson, and Senator Hansen, I would like to take this time to express my support for SB303, providing Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers (WRID) this essential practice right of the ability to stamp, seal and submit our own drawings as required for approval.

My name is Wendy Redeker and I have been an interior designer for 27 years. Currently I have two jobs. I am a WRID self-employed freelance designer with a commercial interior's client base. I am also adjunct faculty at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, teaching Interior Architecture at a .5-.8 FTE appointment for the last 9-1/2 years. I teach foundation courses like hand drafting and AutoCAD, an upper studio course of commercial interiors, the senior professional practice course, and the Architectural Systems II course which includes plumbing, heating, electrical, enclosure systems, and so on.

Even though I currently am not affiliated with ASID or IIDA, I support this bill for my personal business as well as for the benefit of interior architecture students.

Wisconsin has four universities offering interior design programs, to which all four are CIDA accredited. CIDA being the Council for Interior Design Accreditation has been holding design education accountable throughout the US and Canada, and is recognized by the NCIDQ for the highest qualifying graduate to sit for the exam. These high standards of safety and wellness are taught throughout a student's education, which then prepares them for continued high standards through professional growth experience, to then take the rest of the NCIDQ exam.

To give you some background of the NCIDQ, in 1975, the National Council for Interior Design was formed to develop and administer a national Interior Design qualification exam, called the NCIDQ, for which knowledge of building codes is required to pass the exam. Core competencies tested include Building Codes / Building Systems / Construction Standards / Contract Administration / Design Application / Professional Practice / Project Coordination. This exam has continued to evolve and is the benchmark for interior design legislation in all states, including Wisconsin. Recently the exam has made some changes to engage new graduates early in committing to part of the exam process, which is a testament to the exam having confidence in our CIDA graduates knowledge straight out of school. These fresh interior designers are then required to fulfill a time frame of field experience, all resulting in better rates of designers going on to take the full exam. Wisconsin's goal would be to encourage those passing designers to become registered in order to stamp and seal, of which the future of their careers will excel beyond what I had the opportunity of. For my students it would validate this career choice

AND promote enrollment, which is threatening four-year universities. This would be another type of win for the state of Wisconsin. I am excited about how this could open the industry up to even more possibilities and promote diversity within the design field, especially with men.

Specifically at UWSP, we pride ourselves with the program titled Interior Architecture, to ensure holistic architectural thinking based on interiors. Students are required to take a rigorous course schedule that applies their understanding and knowledge of BIM, ICC-International Building Code, ADA and universal design through studio-based courses and class projects. One of our students will be speaking more to this in a moment.

When our students move on to the field they might be working as facility designers for Sentry Insurance or Schneider Trucking; interior designers in furniture dealerships – laying out moveable walls such as the manufacturer DIRTT, which requires systems planning as well; or working for an architectural firm designing spaces while developing detailed shop drawings and finish specifications. We have alumni working in CO, TX, FL, GA, MI, MN, and beyond.

I support this bill for my own design agenda and my client offerings, but also for the future of educated and tested professionals that were once my students.

Mr. Chairmen, and members of the Wisconsin Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations, thank you for your willingness to listening to the opinion of professional interior designers. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Chairman Senator Kapenga, Vice-Chair Senator Olsen, Senator Craig, Senator LeMahieu, Senator Johnson, and Senator Hansen, I welcome the opportunity to express my support for SB303, which provides to Wisconsin Registered Interior Designers (WRID) this essential practice right – the ability to stamp, seal and submit our own drawings as required for approval.

Hello, my name is Halle Laverdure and I have been an interior architecture student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point for the past four years. I have experienced a rigorous and comprehensive education in all aspects of the design field. In addition to learning hand drafting and BIM software, students are required to take two semesters of Architectural Systems courses. These courses address many systems applications such as green building design, flammability requirements for proper interior finish specification, occupancy load calculations, egress and ADA. Code compliance is then reiterated and applied throughout all studio projects as well as other class projects to ensure comprehension.

At UW-Stevens Point, students are also required but not limited to working one internship before graduation. Throughout my time as a student, I have had two internships related to the design field, one as a Facilities Design intern on the UW-Stevens Point campus and another as a visual merchandise intern at Ashley Furniture. As a Facilities Design intern, I have worked on various projects that required an understanding of fire codes, egress, ADA compliance, and HVAC systems. Thinking about the future, this bill would unlock more opportunities for interior design professionals, allowing us to practice to our fullest ability; while saving companies and individuals both money and time. It could even determine whether recent graduates at UW schools decide to stay in Wisconsin as working professionals.

Mr. Chairmen, and members of the Wisconsin Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing and State-Federal Relations, thank you for your willingness to listen to the opinion of professional

interior designers. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.