
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 320

Assembly Amendment 2

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 320

Very generally, 2021 Assembly Bill 320 does all of the following:

- Requires a person to pass an interior design examination administered by an organization approved by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) in order to be granted an initial certificate of registration as an interior designer by DSPS.
- Eliminates several requirements for obtaining an initial registration as an interior designer, including the requirement under current law to complete an interior design education program of a certain length-of-time and have certain amounts of practical experience in interior design.
- Makes various changes to the scope of practice of interior design.
- Requires DSPS to promulgate rules establishing specifications for interior design seals and stamps and requires a registered interior designer to impress the seal or stamp on certain documents prepared by the interior designer.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 makes a number of changes to the bill, including the creation of an examining board section for the regulation of registered interior designers and corresponding statutory placement changes to interior design laws, changes to continuing education requirements for registered interior designers, and changes to the scope of practice of interior design.

Creation of Examining Board Section and Statutory Placement Changes

The amendment changes the placement of current statutory language regarding registered interior designers from the DSPS general statutory chapter to the statutory chapter for the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors. The amendment then adds a new section to the board specifically for registered interior designers, and adds three registered designers and two public members to the membership of the board, which is consistent with the membership of the other sections of the board.

The amendment generally retains current law governing the practice of interior design, and the provisions of the bill that relate to initial registration of interior designers, but transfers the authority to register interior designers and to promulgate administrative rules from DSPS to the new Registered Interior Designers section of the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Registered Interior Designers.

The amendment explicitly allows the new interior designer section of the board to reprimand registered interior designers and limit, suspend, or revoke a registration, including for any gross negligence or misconduct, or any gross incompetence, in the practice of interior design. The amendment also

explicitly exempts registered interior designers from certain application requirements of other professions regulated by the board, including personal reference requirements.

Continuing Education for Registered Interior Designers

Under current law, DSPS has promulgated administrative rules that require a registered interior designer to attend and successfully complete at least nine hours of an approved continuing education program before each registration renewal date. The amendment creates a statute that requires the new registered interior designer section of the examining board to promulgate rules that require a registered interior designer to complete at least 15 hours of continuing education before each two-year renewal date, with at least six of the 15 hours in subjects related to the practice of interior design which safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Scope of Practice of Interior Design

The amendment incorporates many of the substantive changes to laws relating to registered interior designers from the original bill, including retaining the bill's provisions on examination, eliminating certain registration requirements, and stamping and sealing documents. However, the amendment differs from the bill in the following respects as it relates to the scope of the practice of interior design:

- Modifies the statutory term "interior design" to "practice of interior design" and clarifies that the practice of interior design includes the preparation of documents for egress plans so long as the egress plans require no increase in the number of exterior or fire stair exits.
- Current law provides that interior design does not include services that constitute the practice of architecture or professional engineering. The bill deleted the phrase "practice of architecture" from that provision. The amendment reinserts the phrase "practice of architecture," clarifying that the practice of interior design does not include the practice of professional engineering and does not include the practice of architecture, except as specifically provided in the statutory chapter.
- The bill creates a list of things that interior designers may not engineer. The amendment retains the same list, but provides that interior designers may not engineer **or design** those things.
- The bill includes a definition of "interior alteration or construction project" that describes five categories of permissible changes or alterations within the practice of interior design, including "interior office furniture." The amendment modifies that category to "interior furnishings."

BILL HISTORY

On June 22, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform voted to introduce Assembly Amendment 2, adopt the amendment, and recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 3.

SM:ksm