



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 350

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 631

Senate, April 1, 2015

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. LARSON of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING INTERIOR DESIGNERS TO OBTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION RELATED TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-377s of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) A registered interior designer shall include his or her certificate
4 of registration number in any advertisement and may include his or
5 her certificate of registration number in any written communication.

6 (b) No person shall: (1) Present or attempt to present, as his or her
7 own, the certificate of another, (2) knowingly give false evidence of a
8 material nature to the commissioner for the purpose of procuring a
9 certificate, (3) use or attempt to use a certificate which has expired or
10 which has been suspended or revoked, (4) represent himself or herself
11 falsely as, or impersonate, a registered interior designer, or (5)
12 represent in any manner that his or her certificate of registration

13 constitutes an endorsement of the quality of his or her workmanship or
14 of his or her competency by the commissioner.

15 (c) Certificates of registration issued to an interior designer shall not
16 be transferable or assignable.

17 (d) All certificates of registration issued under the provisions of
18 sections 20-377k to 20-377v, inclusive, shall expire annually.

19 (e) A registered interior designer may apply for renewal of a
20 certificate of registration. The fee for renewal of [a] such certificate of
21 registration [as an interior designer] shall be one hundred ninety
22 dollars, provided any architect licensed in this state shall not be
23 required to pay such fee.

24 (f) A registered interior designer shall complete a minimum of four
25 hours of continuing education every three years. Such three-year
26 period shall commence on the first date of renewal of the applicant's
27 certificate of registration on or after October 1, 2015. The continuing
28 education shall be in areas related to the application of the State
29 Building Code and the Fire Safety Code.

30 (g) A registered interior designer who applies for a renewal of a
31 certificate of registration on or after October 1, 2018, shall sign a
32 statement on a form prescribed by the commissioner attesting that he
33 or she has satisfied the continuing education requirements of
34 subsection (f) of this section. Such applicant shall retain records of
35 attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate compliance
36 with such continuing education requirements for a minimum of three
37 years following the year in which the continuing education activities
38 were completed. Such applicant shall submit such records to the
39 commissioner for inspection not later than forty-five days after a
40 request by the commissioner for such records.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	20-377s

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Establishing continuing education requirements for registered interior designers results in no cost to the state. The anticipated number of interior designers which would need to have their continuing education requirements verified can be achieved utilizing existing Department of Consumer Protection staff.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 631*****AN ACT REQUIRING INTERIOR DESIGNERS TO OBTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION RELATED TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND FIRE SAFETY CODE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes continuing education requirements for registered interior designers. It requires them, every three years, starting when they apply to renew their registration on or after October 1, 2015, to complete at least four hours of continuing education in areas related to the application of the state building and fire safety codes.

A registered interior designer who applies to renew his or her registration, on or after October 1, 2018, must attest on a form prescribed by the consumer protection commissioner that he or she satisfied the continuing education requirements. He or she must keep attendance records or completion certificates demonstrating compliance with the requirements for at least three years after completing continuing education and submit the records to the commissioner for inspection within 45 days after he asks for them.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Interior Designer***

By law, an "interior designer" is someone qualified by education, experience, and examination who:

1. identifies, researches, and creatively solves problems pertaining to the interior environment's function and quality;

2. performs services relative to interior spaces, including programming, design analysis, space planning, and aesthetics, using specialized knowledge of non-load-bearing interior construction, building systems and components, building codes, equipment, material, and furnishings; and
3. prepares plans and specifications for non-load-bearing interior construction, material, finishes, space planning, reflected ceiling plans, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment relative to the design of interior spaces to enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public (CGS § 20-377k).

Related Case

The state does not regulate who may practice interior design, but it limits a person's right to title or market themselves as a registered interior designer (*Roberts v. Farrell*, 630 F.Supp.2d 242 (2009)). By law, a person cannot use the title "registered interior designer" or otherwise indicate that he or she is a registered interior designer unless he or she (1) has registered as an interior designer with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) or (2) is an architect licensed in the state.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2015)