

- SUBJECT:** Changing professional title requirements for interior designers
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Kuempel, Thompson, Geren, Gutierrez, Hamilton, Jones, Menendez, Quintanilla
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Chisum
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Scott Gibson, Cathy Hendricks, Texas Board of Architectural Examiners)
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners regulates the interior design profession. Occupations Code, sec. 1053.151 prohibits persons from referring to themselves as interior designers unless they have fulfilled state registration requirements or are registered architects. In order to be exempt from registering, persons must not refer to themselves as an interior designer or to their profession as interior design.
- DIGEST:** HB 1484 would allow interior designers not registered with the state to refer to themselves as interior designers. It would prohibit those designers who are not registered from stating or implying that they are “registered” or “licensed” interior designers.
- Persons who do not refer to themselves “registered” or “licensed” interior designers would be exempt from state registration and examination requirements.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** A case currently is pending in federal court against the Board of Architectural Examiners in which the plaintiffs allege First Amendment violations through infringement of the right of those who practice interior design to refer to themselves as interior designers. Changing the title

requirement to require state registration only for those interior designers who refer to themselves as or otherwise imply that they are “registered” or “licensed” should alleviate those constitutional concerns, saving the time and money the board would spend on the case. The bill would not restrict the ability to practice interior design, and anyone who currently practices it would be able to continue doing so.

The inclusion of the word "licensed" should not cause any confusion, because the public would be aware that there is a government body that oversees the interior design profession.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

The bill should refer only to “registered” interior designers and not include “licensed.” Because Texas only registers interior designers but does not license them, allowing designers — registered or unregistered — to refer to themselves as “licensed” could prove misleading to consumers.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1698 by Fraser, has been referred to the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.