



# FAQs

## Interior Design Collaborative – Oregon

LEGISLATOR

**Licensed Interior Designers ensure the health, safety, and welfare of building occupants and are needed to help protect the public from harm.**

### Why Consumer Protection:

**Fire Safety:** We are to abide by fire safety codes when designing interior spaces.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), interior furnishings and content is the second most important issue in the protection of life and property during a fire in public assembly spaces.

**Egress:** We execute plans for life safety building codes for fire egress and exiting from a room or building that also follow ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG) in full.

Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act are found frequently in new construction and building alterations in Oregon. The Department of Civil Justice has filed cases against assembly spaces in Portland as well as several Oregon cities including Bend.



### Indoor Air Quality:

We understand many interior finishes and furnishings off-gas toxic chemicals, thus contributing to sick building syndrome. LEED Interior Design and Construction is a specialty, not a regulated practice, for sustainable interior design.

**Elder care:** We provide specialized design services for the elderly to prevent disorientation, slips, and falls. Designing for people to “Age In Place” allows a person to retain their independence over time.

### Will this cost the State any money?

No General Fund or tax dollars are needed to enact this bill. Licensing fees will support the regulatory board. IDC-Oregon is working to find a joint or sub-board solution.

### Will the licensing fees be prohibitive to start a business or continue business?

No. The additional business brought by Registered Interior Designers submitting plans for permit in jurisdictions that require a Registered Design professional will more than offset the business costs of registration.

### Will the law prohibit or constrict anyone currently performing interior design services?

Anyone may use the title “interior design.” Additionally, the following exemptions were drafted to address those whose work may fall under the requirements of this bill:

- Licensed professional
- Architects, Engineers, General Contractors.
- Single family homes
- Retail establishments providing consultation services
- Decoration not subject to building, fire, or other codes and laws.

### How many designers currently qualify?

- There are 300 NCIDQ certificate holders in the State of Oregon, with an average of 6-8 passing the exam each year.
- Over 80 students graduate from interior design programs in Oregon each year.
- The generous grandfathering clause allows many more designers to qualify.

HB 2491 defines safe design.

The Oregon employment department recognizes an interior designer’s knowledge of building codes, health, and safety regulations.

