

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1303

Practice of Architecture & Interior Design

SPONSOR(S): Troutman

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1542

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee		Livingston	Cooper
2)	General Government Policy Council			
3)	Government Operations Appropriations Committee			
4)	Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care			
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Part I of chapter 481, F.S., regulates architects and interior designers. Both professions are regulated by the Board of Architecture and Interior Design (board) under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Practitioners must meet licensure requirements in order to legally practice their profession.

Architecture is performing services in connection with the design and construction of a structure having the principal purpose of human habitation or use. "Architect" or "registered architect" means a natural person who is licensed to engage in the practice of architecture.

Interior design is providing designs, consultations, studies, drawings, specifications, and administration of design construction contracts relating to nonstructural interior elements of a building or structure.

The bill amends the definition of "interior design" and, therefore, the applicable regulatory provisions would not include activities or services relating to plans prepared for the sale or installation of cubicle workstations and similar modular furniture and fixtures when the plans are prepared by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of these products.

The bill specifies that the definition of the term "space planning" does not include designs, consultations, studies, drawings, specifications, layouts, or floor plans prepared for the sale or installation of cubicle workstations and similar modular furniture and fixtures or spatial dividers or partitions when prepared by the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of the furniture and fixtures and, therefore, the applicable regulatory provisions would not apply to these activities.

For purposes of licensure by endorsement, the bill requires that architect practitioners licensed in other jurisdictions after June 30, 2000 must also hold a degree in architecture.

The bill creates an exemption from licensure for a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of cubicle workstations and modular furniture, including special dividers or partitions, who prepare designs, layouts or other plans for the sale or installation of furniture, fixtures, and these other products. The exemption from licensure also applies to a person who advertises these services.

The provisions of the bill may create a reduction in applications for licensure and renewal of licenses. The fiscal impact is, however, not anticipated to be significant.

Effective date – July 1, 2009.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present situation

Current regulation of professions is carried out by DBPR, in part, by licensing practitioners. Each profession is administered either directly by the DBPR or through a separately appointed board, council, or a commission. Regulation is intended to protect the public by ensuring that licensed professionals meet prescribed standards of education, competency, and practice. Chapter 455, F.S., provides general powers for the regulation of the areas of jurisdiction under the DBPR.

Part I of chapter 481, F.S., regulates architects and interior designers. Both professions are regulated by an eleven member Board of Architecture and Interior Design under the DBPR. Practitioners must meet licensure requirements in order to legally practice their profession

Various acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions may be taken. For instance, a person may not knowingly: practice interior design unless the person is a registered interior designer unless specifically exempted; use the name or title "architect" or "registered architect," or "interior designer" or "registered interior designer," or words to that effect, when the person is not then the holder of a valid license issued pursuant to this part; or employ unlicensed persons to practice architecture or interior design.

"Architecture" is defined in the chapter to mean

the rendering or offering to render services in connection with the design and construction of a structure or group of structures which have as their principal purpose human habitation or use, and the utilization of space within and surrounding such structures. Services include planning, providing preliminary study designs, drawings and specifications, job-site inspection, and administration of construction contracts.

"Interior design" is defined in the chapter to mean

designs, consultations, studies, drawings, specifications, and administration of design construction contracts relating to nonstructural interior elements of a building or structure. "Interior design" includes, but is not limited to, reflected ceiling plans, space planning, furnishings, and

the fabrication of nonstructural elements within and surrounding interior spaces of buildings.

Effect of proposed changes

The bill amends the definition of “interior design” and, therefore, the regulatory provisions of part I of chapter 481, F.S., would not include activities or services relating to plans prepared for the sale or installation of cubicle workstations and similar modular furniture and fixtures when the plans are prepared by a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of these products.

Current situation

“Space planning” is defined in the chapter to mean

the analysis, programming, or design of spatial requirements, including preliminary space layouts and final planning.

Effect of proposed changes

The bill specifies that the term “space planning” does not include designs, consultations, studies, drawings, specifications, layouts, or floor plans prepared for the sale or installation of cubicle workstations and similar modular furniture and fixtures or spatial dividers or partitions when prepared by the manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of the furniture and fixtures.

Current situation

Currently, s. 481.211, F.S., requires that an applicant for licensure as a registered architect must complete, prior to licensure, an internship of diversified architectural experience approved by the board. The internship must be for a period of three years for an applicant holding the degree of Bachelor of Architecture or two years for an applicant holding the degree of Master of Architecture.

Section 481.213, F.S., provides, in part, the DBPR license an applicant who the board certifies is qualified for licensure and who pays the licensure fee.

This section specifies three options to qualify for a license by “endorsement” as an architect or as an interior designer, if an applicant:

- has passed a prescribed licensure examination for architects or interior designers, as applicable, and has satisfied the internship requirements for architects;
- holds a license to practice architecture or interior design issued by another jurisdiction of the United States, if the criteria for issuance of a license were substantially equivalent to the licensure criteria that existed in this state at the time the license was issued; or
- has passed a prescribed licensure examination and holds a certificate issued by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and holds a license to practice architecture issued by another state or jurisdiction of the United States. If the applicant for licensure in Florida is licensed in another state or jurisdiction after **June 30, 1984**, must also hold a degree in architecture. Additionally, an applicant licensed in another state or jurisdiction after **June 30, 1985**, must have completed an internship equivalent to that required by s. 481.211, F.S.

Effect of proposed changes

The bill amends s. 481.213, F.S., regarding qualifications relating to licensure by endorsement.

The bill removes reference to the qualification that architectural practitioners licensed in other jurisdictions after June 30, 1984, must also hold a degree in architecture. The bill requires the

architecture degree requirement to apply to practitioners licensed in another jurisdiction after June 30, 2000.

The bill removes reference to the qualification that architectural practitioners licensed in other jurisdictions after June 30, 1985, must have completed an approved internship program. The bill requires the internship requirement to apply to practitioners licensed in another jurisdiction after June 30, 2000.

Present situation

Currently s. 481.229(6), F.S., specifies exemptions from the licensure requirements of part I of chapter 481, F.S.

Effect of proposed changes

The bill creates an exemption from licensure for a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of cubicle workstations and modular furniture, including special dividers or partitions, who prepare designs, layouts or other plans for the sale or installation of furniture, fixtures, and these other products. The exemption from licensure also applies to a person who advertises these services.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 481.203, F.S., to exclude certain services relating to modular furniture from the definitions of "interior design" and "space planning."

Section 2. Amends s. 481.213, F.S., to change references to certain dates for purposes of the application of qualification requirements for licensure by endorsement.

Section 3. Amends s. 481.229, F.S., to create an exemption from licensure for a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of cubicle workstations and modular furniture, including special dividers or partitions, who prepare designs, layouts or other plans for the sale or installation of furniture, fixtures, and these other products.

Section 4. Effective date – July 1, 2009.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

Not anticipated to be significant.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Not anticipated to be significant.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The provisions of the bill may create a reduction in applications for licensure and renewal of licenses. The fiscal impact is, however, not anticipated to be significant.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, does not appear to reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, and does not appear to reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

NA

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Currently, s. 481.229, F.S. is titled: "**Exceptions; exemptions from licensure.**" Subsection (6) of this section specifies:

(6) This part **[part I]** shall not apply to:

(a) A person who performs interior design services or interior decorator services for any residential application...

(b) An employee of a retail establishment providing "interior decorator services: on the premises..."

Section 3 of the bill creates an additional exemption from part I licensure requirements for a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of cubicle workstations and modular furniture, including special dividers or partitions, who prepare designs, layouts or other plans for the sale or installation of furniture, fixtures, and these other products.

This exemption appears to apply to architects and interior designers as (6) applies to all of part I. If the intent of the bill is to create an exemption only for interior design, clarifying application to interior design only may be appropriate for consideration.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES