

June 11, 2022—Illinois — The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), and the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) announce today the passage of House Bill 4715, an historic piece of interior design legislation in Illinois. Signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 10, 2022, the legislation establishes a robust slate of practice rights for interior designers in Illinois and confirms that interior design work positively impacts lives in the built environment.

Energized by recent momentum recognizing the importance of the profession, the legislation honors interior designers as distinct professionals in the design community and acknowledges the crucial role interior designers play in protecting occupant health, safety, and welfare. The legislation follows the passage of similar bills in Wisconsin in 2022 and North Carolina in 2021.

The legislation was introduced and sponsored by Representative Margaret Croke (D) in the House of Representatives and by Senator Laura Fine (D) in the Senate, and practitioners will be regulated by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. ASID partnered with the ASID Illinois Chapter (leaders and members), legislators, and counterparts at IIDA and CIDQ to secure the decisive win for the interior design profession in Illinois.

The legislation expands the scope of interior design with permitting privileges for interior designers to stamp and seal plans, thus defining interior designers as professionals who protect and advance occupant health safety in their work. In expanding the scope of interior design, the new legislation recognizes the extensive education and knowledge of interior designers concerning safety solutions in the built environment, including ADA-friendly features and fire safety codes.

"Interior designers are highly-skilled professionals who must have significant qualifications to pursue a career in the industry," said **State Representative Margaret Croke**. "This bill will allow designers to stamp their own design plans for non-structural construction, removing an unnecessary barrier for those in the industry. Interior design is a traditionally female-dominated industry, and I'm proud to lead efforts to ease the challenges they face."

"Interior designers bring an extensive body of knowledge, experience, and care to their profession, and this legislation reaffirms their impressive qualifications," said **ASID CEO Gary Wheeler, FASID**. "We are grateful to the state of Illinois for recognizing the profession's value and empowering designers to be true custodians of health and safety in the built environment. ASID is committed to advocating for our members, the profession, and the public as we continue to lead the national movement around practice rights."

"IIDA is proud to have collaborated with our partners on the forward movement of Illinois House Bill 4715 ensuring Interior Designers can seamlessly continue the critical work of managing and protecting the health and safety of all those that inhabit our designed environments," shared **Cheryl Durst, IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO**. "This legislative progress reinforces the skill, talent, and essential value of our industry professionals and is a significant achievement for the profession, for IIDA and our partners, and the broader design industry. Thank you to Governor Pritzker and the State of Illinois for supporting this influential bill, and congratulations to all the advocates for interior design that worked long and hard on this important achievement."

"This historic legislation is yet another example of the continued importance of reasonable regulation of interior design," said **Thom Banks, Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Interior Design Qualification**. "These policies are vital for protecting the public in the built environment through responsible practice, and we're thrilled to see such a strong bipartisan outcome and collaborative effort between the design professions towards achieving that goal. We thank Representative Croke and Senator Fine for their strong support and hope other states will look to what's been accomplished in Illinois as an example of collaboration towards a shared goal of protecting health, safety, and welfare."

HB 4715 represents the next chapter of an initiative shared by the three organizations to codify legislation that accurately and comprehensively reflects the modern interior design practice and its ever-expanding role. Illinois is the second state to pass legislation of this nature in 2022 alone, on the heels of Wisconsin in March 2022. Since 2021, ASID, IIDA and CIDQ have also secured legislative victories in North Carolina and Oklahoma and improved distinct professional recognition in states including Utah and Virginia.

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About ASID

The American Society of Interior Designers believes that design transforms lives. ASID serves the full range of the interior design profession and practice through the Society's programs, networks, and advocacy. We thrive on the strength of cross-functional and interdisciplinary relationships among designers of all specialties, including workplace, healthcare, retail and hospitality, education, institutional, and residential. We lead interior designers in shared conversations around topics that matter: from evidence-based and human centric design to social responsibility, well-being, and sustainability. We showcase the impact of design on the human experience and the value interior designers provide.

ASID was founded over 40 years ago when two organizations became one, but its legacy dates back to the early 1930s. As we celebrate nearly 85 years of industry leadership, we are leading the future of interior design, continuing to integrate the advantages of local connections with national reach, of small firms with big, and of the places we live with the places we work, play, and heal. Learn more at [asid.org](https://www.asid.org).

About IIDA

IIDA is the commercial interior design association with a global reach. We support design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through our network of 15,000+ members across 58 countries. We advocate for advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to increase the value and understanding of interior design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well-being of people's lives every day. IIDA.org

About CIDQ

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is a nonprofit organization that develops and administers the NCIDQ Examination. The NCIDQ Examination is the broad-based exam for all interior designers and serves as the foundation from which to build for those moving into specialty design areas. NCIDQ Certification is required for the practice of many types of interior design in regulated jurisdictions throughout North America.

CIDQ's membership is made up of U.S. state boards and Canadian provincial associations that regulate the profession of interior design. NCIDQ Certification is the industry's recognized indicator of proficiency in interior design principles and a designer's commitment to the profession. Professional interior designers who possess the NCIDQ credential have distinguished themselves by demonstrating a specific set of core competencies, supported by verified work experience and a college degree. They have proven their expertise in understanding and applying current codes established to protect public health, safety, and welfare. Learn more at cidq.org.

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NEW MEXICO

 P.O. Box 35282
Albuquerque, NM 87176

 (505) 908-9177

 info@nm.asid.org (<mailto:info@nm.asid.org>)

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