

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 262**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to the certification of interior designers..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 1.     Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as most recently appearing in the 2009

2           Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 60O the following new

3           Section:

4           Section 60P. Title: Certified Interior Designer

5           Any individual who has passed the interior design examination administered by the  
6 National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) may use the title “certified interior  
7 designer.”

8           Such individual shall, upon satisfactory completion of the aforementioned requirements,  
9 send to the office of director of professional licensure a copy of documentation of the proof of  
10 passage of said exam, of graduation and completion of said program, and any certifications  
11 awarded to said individual by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification, with said  
12 individual’s name, present mailing address and email address, and any changes there to as such  
13 changes occur. Such documentation shall be placed on file in the office of said director.

14           Application; Renewal; Re-Activation

15           Each applicant seeking to become a certified interior designer shall pay to the board,  
16 upon filing his or her original application a fee to be determined annually by the commissioner of  
17 administration. The director of the office of professional licensure, or his designee, as the  
18 custodian of any documentation required by this section shall enforce the provisions of said  
19 section and may use said documentation, or any lack thereof, as he, or his designee, deems  
20 necessary, notwithstanding any General or special Law, or rule or regulation to the contrary.

21           A Certified Interior Designer shall be required to continue learning and stay abreast of  
22 current knowledge in the profession by completing continuing education units (CEUs).  
23 Continuing education shall be gained through coursework delivered in education units. [The  
24 quantity and content designation of education units (CEUs) shall be determined by the office of  
25 professional licensure.]

26           It shall be unlawful for any individual, who is not so qualified by reason of having passed  
27 such examination, or who does not have such experience to use the title “certified interior  
28 designer” or any title or device indicating that an individual is a “certified interior designer.”

29           Nothing herein shall prohibit any person from performing interior design services or  
30 using the title “interior designer,” “interiors consultant,” “interior decorator” or the like, so long  
31 as the word “certified” is not used in conjunction with the word “interior designer.”

32           Nothing herein shall authorize any individual to engage in the practice of architecture,  
33 engineering, or any other occupation regulated under the laws of this state or to prepare, sign or  
34 seal plans with respect to such practice or in connection with any governmental permits unless  
35 licensed or otherwise permitted to do so under such laws.

36 Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employee of a retail establishment providing  
37 consultation regarding interior design, decoration, furnishings, furniture or fixtures offered for  
38 sale by such establishment from receiving compensation from such establishment.

39 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, an individual who has  
40 completed at least 10 years of full-time, diversified, verifiable professional experience in the  
41 profession of interior design shall be eligible for “provisional certification” provided that within  
42 twelve months after the first meeting of the board, said individual has applied for certification.

43 Said applicant, upon review and consent of the board, may be issued a “provisional  
44 certification” and be given three calendar years from the first meeting of the board to provide  
45 substantial proof to the board of successful passage of “Section I” of the NCIDQ examination, at  
46 which time full certification will be granted. If proof is not provided to the board within the  
47 allotted time period, said applicant’s “provisional certification” shall be revoked and become null  
48 and void. Re-application, including satisfaction of all requirements at the time of re-application,  
49 shall be required for registration. During the time period of “provisional certification,” said  
50 individual is required to maintain all current fees and uphold all requirements certification and  
51 renewal until such time as the examination requirement is fulfilled.

52 Any individual violating the provisions of this section shall be punished via a fine and/or  
53 ones certification revoked by the division of professional licensure.

54 SECTION 2. Section 38A1/2 of chapter 7 of the general laws is hereby amended in line  
55 32 by adding the following new paragraph: “or an individual, corporation, partnership or sole  
56 proprietorship engaged in the practice of interior design.”

57           SECTION 3. Section 38D of chapter 7 of the general laws is hereby amended in line 21  
58 by adding the following: “, including whether interior designers are eligible to apply, as  
59 determined by section 38E.”

60           SECTION 4. Section 38E of chapter 7 of the general laws is hereby amended by adding  
61 the following: “(h) interior designers may be eligible to compete for those projects where  
62 appropriate as the prime consultant.” Eligible candidates would hold a valid certificate indicating  
63 that they are a Certified Interior Designer meeting the requirements outlined by the division of  
64 professional licensure.”