

Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER:</u>	H324
<u>TITLE:</u>	An Act relative to advancing the profession of commercial interior design
<u>SPONSOR(S):</u>	Rep. Christine Barber and Rep. Mary Keefe
<u>HEARING DATE:</u>	July 14, 2025
<u>REPORTING DEADLINE:</u>	September 12, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY

(2021-2022): S218 - Bill reported favorable as redraft by Committee, see S2570; and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means.

(2023-2024): S2813 - Senate passed to be engrossed, following favorable action by the Committee and the committee on Senate Ways and Means; and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 112 of the Massachusetts General Laws governs the licensing of professions.

Chapter 13 governs the several boards of registration within the Division of Occupational Licensure or the Department of Public Health.

Section 54A of Chapter 143 concerns the acceptance or approval of construction plans or specifications; and the seal of an architect or professional engineer.

Section 45 of Chapter 7C of the General Laws governs the Designer Selection Board within the Executive Office of Administration and Finance having jurisdiction over the selection of all designers, interior designers, programmers, and construction managers performing design services in connection with certain building projects for public agencies.

SUMMARY

This legislation seeks to establish a new Board of Registration of Commercial Interior Designers and a new licensure scheme for the practice of such interior design, definitions relevant to the practice of interior design, and the requirements for registration. Any individual who has passed the interior design examination administered by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), and upon approval by the board, may use the title “Registered Commercial Interior Designer”.

Further, the bill establishes the process for license application, renewal, and re-activation. Certificates of registration shall last for 2 years. A registered interior designer must complete continuing education requirements.

Registered interior designers shall have a seal authorized by the board used to seal any interior technical submissions. The seal certifies and permits that the documents may be submitted independently to a governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining permits for interior alterations or construction.

A roster of registered interior designers shall be published each year on a public website.

The bill also seeks to establish regulations for businesses offering or planning to offer interior design services. Said businesses may have one or more registered or unregistered interior designers as a director on the board, a general partner, or a managing agent, an owner, or an officer.

Further, the bill prohibits any person, business entity, or government authority from taking actions to unfairly disadvantage or limit an interior designer from forming a business, hiring employees who are design professionals, engineers, architects, or any other licensed profession.

The bill also adds two members to the designer selection board, 3 of whom would now be certified interior designers (and reducing the number of certain registered engineers from 3 to 2).