

CCVID

COUNCIL FOR VIRGINIA CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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Virginia Certified Interior Designer Proposed Deregulation Talking Points

Members of CCVID, Council of Certified Virginia Interior Designers, ASID, and IIDA were informed this week that Governor McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring has recommended to the governor the deregulation of Certified Interior Designers in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Following is an excerpt from the *Work Group Recommendations to the Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring* report.

“Reduce Barriers to Business: De-regulate Interior Designers and Landscape Architects

The Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects issues the Certified Interior Designer and Landscape Architects Programs. There are few, if any complaints in these two sections and very few regulatory violations.

The group makes the following recommendation:

The group recommends eliminating the Certified Interior Designer program and the Landscape Architect program.”

To challenge the deregulation, we have prepared the following talking points regarding Virginia Certified Interior Designers:

What the Virginia Certified Interior Designers Regulation does

1. The Public is assured that those using the title “Certified Interior Designer” have the education, experience and examination to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.
2. Those regulated are held to a higher standard of accountability.
3. The Public has recourse with the state on matters concerning their health and safety in non-residential facilities. The fact that there have been no complaints is testament to the fact that projects owners now know about hiring competent designers who use the title, Certified Interior Designer.
4. It ensures Certified Interior Designers will perform interior design services for state agencies within the guidelines established by the Virginia Bureau of Capital Outlay. This is the agency responsible for enforcing the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code to assure compliance with life safety and code requirements in design and construction

What the Virginia Certified Interior Designers Regulation does not do

1. The regulations are a “Title Act” and do not restrict people from calling themselves an “interior designer” or restrict them from practicing interior design. Anyone can be an interior designer by trade, but only those who prove their higher level of knowledge through education, experience and examination may use the title “certified interior designer.”
2. It does not restrict the ownership of a company providing interior design services.

3. It does not cost add an unnecessary level of cost to the state. Virginia Certified Interior Designers Regulation pays for itself through application and certification fees.

What the elimination of Virginia Certified Interior Designers Regulation will do

1. Restrict trade for interior designers in Virginia by eliminating the ability for Certified Interior Designers to seal drawings. Allowing Certified Interior Designers to seal drawings for permits increases the number of professionals in the design/build marketplace, as this work was previously restricted to architects and engineers, thereby reducing costs. (There are restrictions to the size of non-structural elements which may be specified by a Certified Interior Designer.)
2. Increase costs for the Project Owners because interior designers will be required to add an architectural consultant to oversee their work. Commonwealth of Virginia interiors projects require that interior designers be certified. If these projects are only open to architects and engineers, the costs to the state will be higher.
3. Restrict our ability to compete for federal projects that require a licensed or certified interior designer to provide interior design services.

What you need to understand about Virginia Certified Interior Designers

The interior design profession suffers from a lack of understanding on the part of the public, who see our role in aesthetics as the primary focus of our work. The following design elements are critical factors in the decisions Certified Interior Designers make for our clients.

1. Protecting the safety of the public by ensuring non-structural elements do not violate fire or accessibility standards. Furnishings, fabrics and other materials must comply with safety codes.
2. Disabled or other people with special needs must have the best means of egress in emergency situations. Able bodied people must also be protected from improper placement of furniture and partitions not only in the workplace but in public spaces where there may be a need for quick evacuation.
3. Lighting is more than decorative as it protects the eyes, makes the workplace and classroom more productive, and assures safety in health care and senior living facilities.
4. LEED and energy efficiency are mandated in Virginia facilities, and non-structural elements are key components of sustainable design and a pollution-free environment.

Virginia Certified Interior Designers Regulation Facts

1. There are currently 486 Virginia Certified Interior Designers.
2. Certified Interior Designers are regulated by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation's APELSIDLA Board, which also regulates architects, professional engineers, land surveyors and landscape architects.

What can Certified Interior Designers do to protect regulation?

First, the governor needs to accept the recommendations from his commission on de-regulation and pass them along to the legislature. Contact the governor's office immediately and ask him to delete the Certified Interior Designers from the list. The person to whom you may address your concern is Jeff Palmore, director of policy development. jeff.palmore@governor.virginia.gov.

Second, go to <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform> and put in your address to find your state delegate. Prepare a letter to your state delegate.

Your letter should contain at least 3 points that are relevant to you, your firm, and/or expertise and the impact of deregulation on your ability to provide interior design services. Keep the message simple, using language that the general public will understand. While you may use our talking points as your inspiration, please avoid quoting directly. These should be heart-felt letters of genuine concern on behalf of your profession instead of sounding like template documents.

Questions regarding this matter should be sent to CCVID through:

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