

OPPOSE interior design monopoly amendments - SB 1452 (Ashby)

Interior Designer Licensing - Fact Sheet

The International Interior Designers Association's (IIDA) licensing proposal has been introduced in the Legislature three times in the last 25 years. It has died or been vetoed each time. Bottom line: there is no real issue here that requires legislation, and the proposal should be rejected again.

1. **Protecting the public or protecting the profession?** The Legislature has long embraced the policy that licensure is only appropriate if there are documented health, safety and welfare threats from a trade or profession. There is no threat to consumers or public safety from interior design services. The sponsors have not provided any data because such empirical proof simply does not exist. In the last 5 years of reporting, there have been only 3 consumer complaints against certified interior designers.
2. **A solution without a real problem to address.** IIDA's language does not solve the problem they highlight as the basis for the proposal. "Permitting privilege" language will not require city/county building departments to accept plans from commercial interior designers. Building departments have broad discretion and can reject architects or engineers plans at any time. They derive their authority from the California Building Code and are the last line of defense to ensure safe buildings.
3. **Who does this really proposal benefit?** There is no cry from consumers to regulate/license interior designers. There is no consumer protection issue being addressed with this language. This proposal is about creating a monopoly for large corporate interior design firms. It is a power grab driven by an international association in Chicago, and is part of their national strategic plan.

The California Legislative Coalition for Interior Designers opposes the amendments.

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Opposition

California Legislative Coalition for Interior Designers

Institute for Justice

Real Estate Staging Association

