


From: David Crawford dcrawford@aianc.org 
Subject: Fwd: Concerns with HB 590 - Interior Design Profession Act
Date: May 18, 2017 at 1:44 PM
To:

DC

From: Betsy Bailey

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 3:39 PM

To: 'John.bradford@ncleg.net' <John.bradford@ncleg.net>; 'chris.millis@ncleg.net' <chris.millis@ncleg.net>; 'dennis.riddell@ncleg.net' <dennis.riddell@ncleg.net>; 'Yvonne.Holley@ncleg.net' <Yvonne.Holley@ncleg.net>; 'susan.martin@ncleg.net' <susan.martin@ncleg.net>; 'Rodney.moore@ncleg.net' <Rodney.moore@ncleg.net>; 'Michael.Speciale@ncleg.net' <Michael.Speciale@ncleg.net>; 'Sam.Watford@ncleg.net' <Sam.Watford@ncleg.net>; 'larry.yarborough@ncleg.net' <larry.yarborough@ncleg.net>; 'John.bell@ncleg.net' <John.bell@ncleg.net>; 'hugh.blackwell@ncleg.net' <hugh.blackwell@ncleg.net>; 'carla.cunningham@ncleg.net' <carla.cunningham@ncleg.net>; 'jimmy.dixon@ncleg.net' <jimmy.dixon@ncleg.net>; 'William.Brisson@ncleg.net' <William.Brisson@ncleg.net>; 'josh.dobson@ncleg.net' <josh.dobson@ncleg.net>; 'elmer.floyd@ncleg.net' <elmer.floyd@ncleg.net>; 'ken.goodman@ncleg.net' <ken.goodman@ncleg.net>; 'Holly.Grange@ncleg.net' <Holly.Grange@ncleg.net>; 'pricey.harrison@ncleg.net' <pricey.harrison@ncleg.net>; 'bert.jones@ncleg.net' <bert.jones@ncleg.net>; 'jonathan.jordan@ncleg.net' <jonathan.jordan@ncleg.net>; 'pat.mcelraft@ncleg.net' <pat.mcelraft@ncleg.net>; 'sarah.stevens@ncleg.net' <sarah.stevens@ncleg.net>; 'William.Richardson@ncleg.net' <William.Richardson@ncleg.net>

Subject: Concerns with HB 590 - Interior Design Profession Act

Dear Regulatory Reform Committee Member,

Following the discussion in the Regulatory Reform Committee hearing last week, and additional analysis by our organization, I wanted to let you know that **Carolinas Associated General Contractors has serious concerns about HB 590**, Interior Design Profession Act.

The measure creates an entirely new regulated design profession where for more than 100 years State law has clearly delineated responsibility in the built environment to architects and engineers. As written, we believe the bill will cause confusion for the contractor as to whether all life/safety issues have been addressed on regulated building projects.

The bill carves out a niche for interior designers that expressly does not cover structural issues and implicitly carves out other responsibilities. We see this segregating of interior design responsibilities creating constant debate among the building inspection and contracting communities. Where is the dividing line for code compliance and ensuring of life safety systems when two separate licensed design professionals are authorized for the same activity? Contractors will find it difficult to determine what the interior designer can and can't do under this new law.

Who exactly is going to make the call on a case-by-case basis when projects present an appearance of dual practice scope or gray areas of life/safety issues? Normally you would point to the building official to make such a decision; however, building inspectors are generally not as well trained as architects and, in essence, they trust the architect to get the code compliance right due to the architect's education, experience, testing and ultimate liability for the job.

Interior architecture also considers the very important relationship of how the interiors relate to all the other building systems. Interior designers are not trained to do this and could unknowingly compromise the safety of the structure and systems already in place when it comes to an up-fit or renovation project.

By law architects are deemed to be the master coordinator to assure all design issues have been addressed on a project. Hence, other design professionals (engineers, landscape architects, lighting designers and yes, interior designers) work as sub-consultants to the architect.

The building industry has relied on architects to make sure that all code and legal design issues have been addressed. Trying to carve out situations where that supervisory role is not needed will almost certainly cause confusion, resulting in delays, costs increases and the chance that something will be missed.

Thank you for your consideration of our issues. I am happy to speak with you further about this matter if you would like to contact me at any of my numbers below.

Sincerely,

Betsy Bailey, CAE

NC Government Relations Building Division Director

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