

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

Marc Berman, Chair

AB 2772 (Committee on Business and Professions) – As Introduced February 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Professions and vocations: interior designers: public protection.

SUMMARY: Provides that protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC) in exercising its certification and disciplinary authority, and any other functions.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) States in myriad practice acts enforced by boards, bureaus, commissions, and councils that protection of the public shall be the highest priority. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 7301.1; § 2001.1; § 1601.2; § 2450.1; § 2460.1; § 2531.02; § 2570.25; § 2602.1; § 2708.1; § 2841.1; § 2920.1; § 3010.1; § 3320.1; § 3504.1; § 3710.1; § 4001.1; § 4501.1; § 4800.1; § 4928.1; § 4990.125; § 5000.1; § 5510.15; § 5620.1; § 6710.1; § 7000.6; § 7303.1; § 7501.05; § 7601.1; § 7810.1; § 8005.1; § 8520.1; § 9810.1; § 9880.3; § 18602.1; 19004.1; § 94770.1)
- 2) Defines the practice of a Certified Interior Designer (CID) as the preparation and submission of nonstructural or nonseismic plans to local building departments that are of sufficient complexity so as to require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them, and the programming, planning, designing, and documenting of the construction and installation of nonstructural or nonseismic elements, finishes and furnishings within the interior spaces of a building. (BPC § 5800(a))
- 3) Establishes the CCIDC, a nonprofit organization that consists of CIDs whose governing board includes representatives of the public. (BPC § 5800(b))
- 4) Provides that a CID may voluntarily obtain a stamp from CCIDC that includes a number that uniquely identifies and bears the name of that CID and identifies the individual as either a CID or a CID with commercial designation. (BPC § 5801)
- 5) Subjects the procedure for the issuance of a stamp by CCIDC, including the examinations recognized and required by CCIDC, to occupational analyses and examination validation. (BPC § 5801.1)
- 6) Requires all drawings, specifications, or documents prepared for submission to any government regulatory agency by any CID or under their supervision to be affixed by a stamp and signed by that CID. (BPC § 5802)
- 7) Exempts CIDs from the Contractors State License Law insofar as they are designing systems for work to be performed by a licensed contractor. (BPC § 5803)
- 8) Makes it an unfair business practice for any CID or any other person to represent to the public that the person is “state certified” to practice interior design, or to use any other words or symbols that represent to the public that the person is so certified. (BPC § 5804)

- 9) Provides that nothing in the CID title act precludes CIDs or any other person from submitting interior design plans for commercial or residential buildings to local building officials, except as provided. (BPC § 5805)
- 10) Provides that nothing in the CID title act prohibits interior design or interior decorator services by any person or retail activity. (BPC § 5806)
- 11) Requires CIDs to use a written contract when contracting to provide interior design services to a client. (BPC § 5807)
- 12) Provides that the CID title act shall be subject to review by the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature and shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2027, and as of that date is repealed. (BPC § 5810)
- 13) Requires meetings of CCIDC to comply with the rules of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and authorizes CCIDC to take reasonable actions to carry out its responsibilities and duties; to adopt bylaws, rules, and procedures necessary to effectuate the purposes of the CID title act; and to establish application fees, renewal fees, and other fees related to the regulatory costs of providing services and carrying out CCIDC's responsibilities and duties. (BPC § 5811)
- 14) Authorizes CCIDC to issue a certification to any applicant who provides satisfactory evidence that they meet all of the requirements of this chapter and who complies with the bylaws, rules, and procedures established by CCIDC and authorizes CCIDC to issue a commercial designation to a CID or qualified applicant who, in addition to the requirements for a CID, passes additional interior design courses and examinations, as determined to be required by CCIDC. (BPC § 5811.1)
- 15) Makes it an unfair business practice for any person to represent or hold themselves out as, or to use the title "Certified Interior Designer" or any other term, such as "licensed," "registered," or "CID," that implies or suggests that the person is certified as an interior designer when they do not hold a valid certification from CCIDC. (BPC § 5812)

THIS BILL:

- 1) Provides that protection of the public shall be the highest priority for CCIDC in exercising its certification and disciplinary authority, and any other functions, and that whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.
- 2) Declares that it is the intent of the Legislature to evaluate CCIDC through the joint legislative sunset review oversight process and to subsequently effectuate any recommendations produced through that process.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown; this bill is keyed fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose. This bill is the sunset review vehicle for the California Council for Interior Design Certification, authored by the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions.

Background.

Sunset review. In order to ensure that California’s myriad professional oversight entities are meeting the state’s public protection priorities, authorizing statutes for these regulatory bodies are subject to statutory dates of repeal, at which point the entity “sunset” unless the date is extended by the Legislature. The sunset process provides a regular forum for discussion around the successes and challenges of various programs and the consideration of proposed changes to laws governing the regulation of professionals. Currently, the sunset review process applies to approximately three dozen different boards, bureaus, and commissions under the Department of Consumer Affairs, as well as the Department of Real Estate and three nongovernmental nonprofit councils, including CCIDC.

On a schedule averaging every four years, each entity is required to present a report to the Legislature’s policy committees, which in return prepare a comprehensive background paper on the efficacy and efficiency of their licensing and enforcement programs. Both the Administration and regulated professional stakeholders actively engage in this process. Legislation is then subsequently introduced extending the repeal date for the entity along with any reforms identified during the sunset review process.

California Council for Interior Design Certification. CCIDC was first established in 1992. Unlike the majority of regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing professions and vocations in California, CCIDC is not a state agency and does not function as part of the state’s government. Instead, CCIDC is incorporated as a private nonprofit public benefit corporation with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Certification offered by CCIDC is voluntary at the state level, though statute allows only certified individuals to use the term “certified interior designer” or any other language that implies certification by CCIDC.

As of December 2025, there are 1,722 certified interior designers (CIDs) in California. A CID is defined in statute as:

A person who prepares and submits nonstructural or nonseismic plans ... to local building departments that are of sufficient complexity so as to require the skills of a licensed contractor to implement them, and who engages in programming, planning, designing, and documenting the construction and installation of nonstructural or nonseismic elements, finishes and furnishings within the interior spaces of a building, and has demonstrated by means of education, experience and examination, the competency to protect and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the public.”

CCIDC is authorized to issue a commercial designation to CIDs who have passed additional interior design courses and examinations.

While the phrase “interior design” is commonly associated with decorative services focused exclusively on visual elements such as furniture arrangements or wall colors, CIDs utilize considerable technical knowledge to ensure that indoor spaces are safe and functional in addition to aesthetically pleasing. CIDs are frequently involved in designing nonstructural interior elements and preparing code-compliant interior plans and documents and often work with building codes, accessibility standards, and contractors. CCIDC attributes public misconceptions regarding the scope of the interior design profession to the rise in popularity of design-oriented reality television, arguing that media portrayals “oversimplify and misrepresent the complexity and technical expertise required in professional practice.”

CCIDC has the authority to grant or deny applications for certification and to discipline certificate holders by denying, suspending, or imposing probationary conditions on certificates. CCIDC may also require a CID to complete remedial coursework in ethics and business practices as a condition of reinstatement or resolution of a disciplinary action. Through these responsibilities, CCIDC helps ensure that CIDs meet professional competency standards designed to protect California consumers. CCIDC does not approve or oversee educational institutions offering programs in interior design.

Issues Raised during Sunset Review. The background paper for CCIDC's sunset review oversight hearing contained a total of 13 issues and recommendations, each of which is eligible to result in statutory changes enacted through CCIDC's sunset bill.¹

This bill has not yet been amended to address any of the issues discussed during CCIDC's sunset bill. Several of the major issues raised were existential in nature. For example, there are currently legislative efforts proposing to establish a state license for professional interior designers within the California Architecture Board. If such a proposal appeared likely to be successful, it would require adjustment to the existing laws governing CCIDC beyond the type of technical changes more typically associated with sunset review.

Notwithstanding proposals to increase the level of regulation on interior designers through state licensure, the sunset background paper for CCIDC questioned whether structural changes to how CCIDC is recognized in statute as a private entity would be appropriate. Issue #13 in the sunset background paper, under the heading "Continued Regulation," discussed recent conflicts between the Legislature and other nonprofit councils that have included arguments that the Legislature cannot dictate how those entities operate despite them being putatively subject to the sunset review process. The sunset background paper concluded with the following recommendation:

The Committees should discuss whether CCIDC should remain established in state law as a quasi-public entity; if that statutory framework is extended, the Committees should consider enacting additional reforms to increase the transparency and accountability of the Council and support the statewide recognition of CIDs as design professionals.

As discussions concerning both the interior design profession generally and CCIDC's role as a quasi-public entity specifically continue, it is likely premature for language to be incorporated into CCIDC's sunset bill. Significant reforms would need to be reconciled with the Legislature's ongoing contemplation of what level of regulation is appropriate for interior designers. Meanwhile, the question of whether to extend CCIDC's sunset date and allow for it to remain codified in its current form remains an actionable question. Substantive language should be amended into this bill once greater clarity of legislative intent has been obtained.

Current Related Legislation. AB 1796 (Jackson) would establish a new category of licensed professional for interior designers within the California Architects Board (CAB), define the scope of practice for professional interior design, and expand the membership of the CAB to include a professional interior designer.

¹ <https://abp.assembly.ca.gov/media/1282>

Prior Related Legislation. SB 816 (Roth), Chapter 723, Statutes of 2023 codified CCIDC's authority to issue a CID commercial designation.

SB 1437 (Roth), Chapter 311, Statutes of 2022 extended CCIDC's sunset date.

SB 308 (Lieu), Chapter 333, Statutes of 2013 extended CCIDC's sunset date, required CIDs to use written contracts when providing interior design services, and required meetings of CCIDC's board to comply with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

AB 2482 (Ma) of 2012 would have established a California Registered Interior Designers Board within the DCA regulate interior designers. *This bill died without a hearing in this committee.*

SB 1312 (Yee/Calderon) of 2008 would have placed interior designers under a Registered Interior Designers Committee within the CAB. *This bill failed on the Senate Floor.*

SB 363 (Figueroa), Chapter 874, Statutes of 2003 extended CCIDC's sunset date, modified the qualifying education and experience standards for a CID, and required CCIDC to provide a report on the costs and benefits of its examination requirements and feasible alternatives.

SB 136 (Figueroa), Chapter 495, Statutes of 2001 extended CCIDC's sunset date, required CCIDC to report specified information to the Joint Committee and to undergo an independent audit of its finances, and required CCIDC to change from a 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

AB 1096 (Romero) of 1999 would have established a Board of Interior Design within the DCA. *This bill was vetoed by the Governor.*

SB 153 (Craven), Chapter 396, Statutes of 1990 established a voluntary certification process for interior designers through CCIDC.

SB 354 (Craven), Chapter 699, Statutes of 1988 required the CSLB to fund a study on the necessity and feasibility of licensing interior designers.

REGISTERED SUPPORT:

None on file

REGISTERED OPPOSITION:

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Robert Sumner / B. & P. / (916) 319-3301