

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2772 (Committee on Business and Professions)
As Introduced February 23, 2026
Majority vote

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.

Major Provisions

- 1) Provide 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) Declare 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.

COMMENTS

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 "sunsets" 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.

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.

According to the Author

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

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, no state costs.

VOTES

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 18-0-1

YES: Berman, Johnson, Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Chen, Elhawary, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pellerin

ABS, ABST OR NV: Caloza

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: February 23, 2026

CONSULTANT: Robert Sumner / B. & P. / (916) 319-3301

FN: 0002657