

FAQ: NEW FLORIDA INTERIOR DESIGN REGISTRY



On July 1, 2020, a new Florida State Interior Design Registry took effect to govern regulated interior designers in the state of Florida.

In addition to the ASID-IIDA joint press release concerning the Governor’s signing of the new law ([asid.org/press-releases/asid-empowers-interior-design-profession-through-reform-legislation-in-florida](https://www.asid.org/press-releases/asid-empowers-interior-design-profession-through-reform-legislation-in-florida)), below, please find commonly asked questions concerning the certificate of registration and the successful lobbying efforts of ASID and IIDA:

1. DID HB 1193 AND SB 474 ELIMINATE ALL REGULATION OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSION IN FLORIDA?

- No.

2. WHY DID ASID AND IIDA PURSUE A VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION?

- Since the interior design licensing law’s passage in 1994, the Act has been targeted for elimination several times, coming close to complete deregulation more than once. In the past two years, bills were introduced to eliminate **ALL** licensure, regulation, and practice rights of interior designers including:
 - ELIMINATING the title “registered interior designer”
 - ELIMINATING the interior design document stamp
 - ELIMINATION of the Board of Architecture & Interior Design, replacing it with a solo Board of Architecture.
 - ELIMINATING the inclusion of “interior designers” as registered design professionals in Florida Statute Chapter 481.

Since his election in 2018, Governor Ron DeSantis has made deregulation of various professions and occupations a priority of his administration and has worked closely with legislative leaders to support and pass deregulation legislation. Faced with near-certain full-scale deregulation, the professional associations worked with members, chapters, legislators, legislative consultants, and trade groups to successfully find an equitable solution that would protect the core tenets of interior design practice rights in Florida.

3. DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

- Yes, if you wish to obtain a “Registered Interior Designer” seal and hold yourself out as a “Registered Interior Designer” or “RID.”

4. HOW OFTEN MUST I REGISTER?

- Renewals are biennial and the fee for registration may not exceed \$75 (which is a lower maximum fee than in the old licensing law).

5. **WHAT EDUCATIONAL, EXPERIENTIAL, AND EXAMINATION PREREQUISITES ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER?**
 - Successful passage of the qualification examination from the Council for Interior Design Qualification or its successor entity or having successfully passed an equivalent exam as determined by the Department of Business & Professional Regulation along with the necessary educational and experiential prerequisites associated with said exam.
6. **IF REGISTERED, CAN I USE THE TITLE “REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNER” OR “RID”?**
 - Yes.
7. **ARE REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNERS STILL CONSIDERED “REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONALS” IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA?**
 - Yes.
8. **IF REGISTERED, MAY I WORK ON COMMERCIAL/CONTRACT PROJECTS?**
 - Yes.
9. **IF NOT REGISTERED, MAY I WORK IN COMMERCIAL SPACE?**
 - Yes, but you may not stamp and seal your construction documents if you are not registered with the State.
10. **IF REGISTERED, WILL I HAVE A REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNER STAMP FOR PLAN REVIEW?**
 - Yes.
11. **WILL MY REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNER STAMP BE THE SAME AS WHEN I WAS LICENSED?**
 - The Board of Architecture & Interior Design are currently deliberating over whether a change in stamp/certificate of registration number will be necessary.
12. **ARE INTERIOR DESIGNERS STILL REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN?**
 - Yes, in the same proportion as before.
13. **WHAT IF I WAS GRANDFATHERED INTO THE ORIGINAL 1994 LICENSE?**
 - Per the Act, “Any person who is licensed as an interior designer by the department and who was in good standing as of July 1, 2020, is eligible to obtain a certificate of registration as a registered interior designer.”
14. **IF I’M REGISTERED, MUST I OBTAIN A SEPARATE BUSINESS LICENSE/CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION?**
 - No, the Act removes the licensure requirements for interior design businesses – an improvement from the old licensing law.
15. **WILL A REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNER’S STAMPED CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT BE ACCEPTED FOR PLAN REVIEW?**
 - Yes, in fact, in an improvement from the old licensing law, under the new registration, properly stamped and filed registered interior design construction documents **MUST** be accepted for plan review.
16. **WHAT ABOUT CONTINUING EDUCATION?**
 - The requirement of 20 hours of continuing education every 2 years for renewal of registration remains for **registered interior designers** with 2 hours in specialized or advanced courses on any portion of the Florida Building Code related to their area of practice. The primary minimal clarification is that the Florida Building Commission will no longer approve these courses. Now, the 2 hours in specialized or advanced courses shall be required by rule adopted by the FL Board of Architecture & Interior Design. This change also applies for architects.