

specified programs of study or substantially equivalent coursework. Alternatively, reciprocity may be granted, based on current licensing by another state, political territory or jurisdiction with equivalent or greater qualifications. Twelve hours of continuing education per year in specified subjects are required for licensure renewal. This bill requires the governing board adopt a seal or stamp, some specifications of which are set out in the bill, to be used by licensed interior designers on interior construction documents prepared by a licensee. Sealed or stamped plans or other documents may be submitted to a county, state, or municipal authority for the purpose of obtaining a requisite permit for an interior design project. A new section regarding the scope of practice regulated under the Act and its relationship with the practice of architecture is added, and the purpose and an outdated section are repealed. The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No substantial fiscal impact is anticipated if SB 181 becomes law.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Under existing law, the Interior Design Board was subject to sunset review at hearings in September and November 2016. At those hearings, RLD and LFC staff presented information that only 12 new licenses had been issued in the past three years, and over half the board was serving on expired terms. RLD archives contained no consumer or peer complaints. The statute does not require a license in order to provide interior design services, and RLD indicated there has been a steady decline in licenses, from 300 to 68, over the past several years.

ALTERNATIVES

RLD suggested the 68 licensed interior designers in New Mexico could form a local chapter of a national interior designers' organization. That local organization could offer a credential to these and other designers for use in their practices, including in marketing materials. There are numerous national organizations, including the American Society of Interior Designers, the International Interior Design Association, and the Designer Society of America. As RLD notes, to qualify for a professional membership in ASID, a designer must pay \$485 in annual dues, provide proof of successfully passing the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) exam, and take 10 credit hours of continuing education every two years.

RB/sb/gb