

Submitter: Aly Pierce
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2141

I was a commercial interior designer for 16 years before taking my current position as a product representative. During my time as an interior designer, I single-handedly managed tenant improvement projects from programming, through construction document production, procuring building permits, and managing the construction administration. I worked in an office with five women, and we all managed our own projects.

We all did our own code analysis because that is what we were trained to do in our schooling, while also being mentored by our boss, a tenured interior designer with a degree in Interior Architecture from the University of Oregon. All of us had bachelor degrees in interior design.

We would walk our building permits, over-the-counter at the City of Portland. I remember sitting at the City for hours, putting my slip and all of the different boxes. I navigated land use development, zoning, and transportation, and I had a 95% success rate of walking away at the end of the day with the building permit in hand. I was able to do this because I knew the code inside and out when it came to ADA, exiting, and other fire life safety codes.

There's a huge difference between an interior designer with a bachelors degree who has passed the NCIDQ, and an interior designer with an associate degree or a decorator. The only way to keep our buildings safe is to make sure that interior design designers have licensure.

Thank you,

Aly Pierce