

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 790

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO ARCHITECTS; AMENDING SECTION 54-306, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH  
AN EXEMPTION TO ALLOW THE FILING OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL SUBMISSIONS; AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 54-306, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
amended to read as follows:

54-306. EXEMPTIONS. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be held or  
construed to have any application to, or to prevent or affect, the following:

(1) The practice of engineering or any other profession or trade for  
which a license is required under any law of this state, or the practice  
of consultants, officers and employees of the United States while engaged  
solely in the practice of architecture for said government.

(2) Draftsmen, students, clerks of work, project representatives and  
others working under the supervision of those lawfully practicing as archi-  
tects under the provisions of this chapter from acting under the instruc-  
tion, control or supervision of their supervisors, or to prevent the employ-  
ment of clerks of work or inspectors of buildings paid by the owners from act-  
ing, if under the control or direction of a licensed architect who has pre-  
pared the drawings and specifications for the building.

(3) The rendering of any architectural service required in the erec-  
tion, enlargement, alteration or repair of any building, where the building  
is to be or is used as a single or multiple family residence not exceeding  
three (3) units or three (3) stories in height; or as a farm building; or for  
the purpose of outbuildings or auxiliary buildings in connection with the  
residential or farm premises.

(4) The rendering of any architectural service required in the erec-  
tion, enlargement, alteration or repair of any building that does not in-  
volve the public health or safety.

(5) The preparation of shop drawings by persons other than architects  
for use in connection with the execution of their work; or the preparation of  
drawings of fixtures or other appliances or equipment, or for any work neces-  
sary to provide for their installation.

(6) Expert consultation rendered to an architect by a consultant,  
whether licensed or not, employed by the architect to consult, advise and  
assist as long as the architect approves, adopts and is responsible for the  
results of the consultation, advice and assistance.

(7) An intern working under the supervision of a licensed architect,  
including the use of the title "architectural intern," as may be established  
and limited by board rule.

(8) A certified interior designer signing and sealing a technical sub-  
mission covering the scope of certified interior design. Certified interior

1 designers shall have the authority to submit such a technical submission to  
2 a state or local governmental entity for the purpose of obtaining any requi-  
3 site permit for an interior alteration or construction project. A local gov-  
4 ernment shall process such filings in the same manner as it would if such fil-  
5 ings were submitted by an architect.

6 (a) Certified interior designers shall not be engaged in the construc-  
7 tion of:

8 (i) Services that constitute the practice of professional en-  
9 gineering or architecture, except as otherwise provided in this  
10 chapter;

11 (ii) Modifications or additions to a building envelope, includ-  
12 ing exterior walls, exterior wall claddings, exterior wall open-  
13 ings, exterior windows and doors, balconies and similar projec-  
14 tions, roof assemblies and rooftop structures, and glass and glaz-  
15 ing for exterior use in both vertical and sloped applications in  
16 buildings and structures;

17 (iii) Changes of building use to occupancies not already allowed  
18 by the current building or structure or changes of building use to  
19 occupancies of a greater hazard;

20 (iv) Modifications or additions to the construction classifi-  
21 cation of a building or structure according to the international  
22 building code;

23 (v) Modifications or additions to the structural system of  
24 a building, including changing the building's dead load on the  
25 structural system;

26 (vi) Material changes to the mechanical, plumbing, heating, air  
27 conditioning, ventilation, electrical, low voltage, elevators  
28 and conveying, fire protection, or fire alarm systems;

29 (vii) Design of or modifications to an exit stair or exit dis-  
30 charge portion of a means of egress system; or

31 (viii) Construction that materially affects life safety systems  
32 pertaining to fire safety of structural elements or the fire pro-  
33 tection of structural elements, smoke evacuation and compartmen-  
34 talization systems, or fire-rated vertical shafts in multi-story  
35 structures.

36 (b) A certified interior designer shall, as a condition of filing tech-  
37 nical submissions for the purpose of obtaining approval for a building  
38 permit, provide to the responsible building official of the jurisdic-  
39 tion proof of the interior designer's professional liability insurance  
40 coverage that is in force.

41 (c) As used in this subsection, "certified interior designer" means a  
42 person who:

43 (i) Holds an active certified interior designer certification  
44 from the board. Such certification shall require that the inte-  
45 rior designer:

46 1. Has met the education and experience requirements of, and  
47 has subsequently passed, the qualification examination pro-  
48 mulgated by the council for interior design qualification or  
49 its successor organization; and

1                   2. Maintains active certification with the council for in-  
 2                   terior design qualification or its successor organization;  
 3                   and

4                   (ii) Engages in:

5                   1. Consultation, study, design analysis, drawing, space  
 6                   planning, and specification for nonstructural or nonseismic  
 7                   interior construction and alteration projects in compliance  
 8                   with applicable building design and construction acces-  
 9                   sibility, fire, life safety, and energy codes, standards,  
 10                   regulations, and guidelines;

11                   2. Preparing and submitting technical submissions for  
 12                   the purpose of obtaining approval for a building permit as  
 13                   provided by law for nonstructural or nonseismic interior  
 14                   construction, materials, finishes, space planning, fur-  
 15                   nishings, fixtures, equipment, lighting, and reflected  
 16                   ceiling plans;

17                   3. Designing for fabrication nonstructural elements within  
 18                   and surrounding interior spaces of buildings;

19                   4. Administration of design construction and contract docu-  
 20                   ments, as the clients' agent, relating to the functions de-  
 21                   scribed in this subparagraph, and collaboration with spe-  
 22                   cialty consultants and licensed practitioners in other ar-  
 23                   reas of technical expertise; or

24                   5. Creation or alteration of paths of egress.

25                   (d) As used in this subsection, "nonstructural or nonseismic" means in-  
 26                   terior elements or components that are not load-bearing, do not assist  
 27                   in the seismic design, and do not require structural computations for  
 28                   a building. Common nonstructural or nonseismic elements or components  
 29                   include ceiling and partition systems that employ normal and typical  
 30                   bracing conventions and are not part of the structural integrity of the  
 31                   building.

32                   (e) The board is authorized to promulgate rules, subject to legislative  
 33                   approval, only for the administration of the interior design certifica-  
 34                   tion provided pursuant to this subsection. Nothing in this subsection  
 35                   authorizes the board to promulgate rules relating to licensure.

36                   (f) The interior design certification provided for pursuant to this  
 37                   subsection shall not be required for interior designers who do not  
 38                   engage in the practice of signing, sealing, and submitting technical  
 39                   submissions as described in this subsection.

40                   SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
 41                   declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
 42                   July 1, 2026.