

# HB337 INTRODUCED



1 HB337  
2 CT9RJWW-1  
3 By Representatives Moore (P), Brown  
4 RFD: Commerce and Small Business  
5 First Read: 25-Feb-25



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Board for Registered Interior Designers is responsible for regulating those interior designers who are registered with the board. Registered interior designers are limited in the size and type of building for which they may perform work.

This bill would expand the practice of registered interior design and would remove the prohibition on the size and type of building for which a registered interior designer may perform work.

This bill would provide for the authority of the board to discipline individuals who are not registered by the board.

This bill would also provide further for the prohibition against a registered interior designer performing professional engineering or architecture and exemptions from registration by the board.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board for Registered Interior



## HB337 INTRODUCED

29 Designers; to amend Sections 34-15C-2, 34-15C-3, 34-15C-9,  
30 34-15C-10, and 34-15C-15, Code of Alabama 1975; to expand the  
31 practice of registered interior design; to remove the  
32 prohibition on the size and type of building for which a  
33 registered interior designer may perform work; and to provide  
34 for the authority of the board to discipline individuals who  
35 are not registered by the board; and to add Section  
36 34-15C-10.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide further  
37 for the prohibition against a registered interior designer  
38 performing professional engineering or architecture and  
39 provide further for exemptions.

40 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

41 Section 1. Sections 34-15C-2, 34-15C-3, 34-15C-9,  
42 34-15C-10, and 34-15C-15 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are  
43 amended to read as follows:

44 "§34-15C-2

45 The Legislature finds and declares that this chapter is  
46 not intended to restrict the practice of interior design or  
47 the use of the terms design, designer, interior design, or  
48 interior designer in this state. The Legislature declares that  
49 the purpose of this chapter is to establish a registration  
50 process for those interior designers who choose to obtain the  
51 credentials required to seal and submit construction documents  
52 for commercial interior projects ~~in certain spaces less than~~  
53 ~~5,000 contiguous square feet within a building which has a~~  
54 ~~total area of 2,500 square feet or more~~ to building officials  
55 for review and permitting purposes. The Legislature further  
56 finds and declares that this chapter is not intended to



## HB337 INTRODUCED

57 prohibit any person from making plans and specifications for  
58 or administering the erection, enlargement, or alteration of  
59 any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, or any  
60 single family residence of any size, ~~or of any other type~~  
61 ~~building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square~~  
62 ~~feet, provided the building is not a school, church,~~  
63 ~~auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly~~  
64 ~~occupancy of people.~~ Except as expressly provided in Section  
65 34-15C-9, nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to  
66 prohibit any person who is not a registered interior designer  
67 from conducting any activity not prohibited by any other state  
68 law. Further, registration under this chapter may not be  
69 required by this state or by any city, town, county, or other  
70 governmental entity or official for the submission, review,  
71 approval, or issuance of permits for plans and specifications  
72 for or to administer the erection, enlargement, or alteration  
73 of any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, or  
74 any single family residence of any size, ~~or of any other type~~  
75 ~~building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square~~  
76 ~~feet, provided the building is not a school, church,~~  
77 ~~auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly~~  
78 ~~occupancy of people, nor for any activity other than the~~  
79 ~~submission to building officials of construction documents for~~  
80 ~~commercial interior projects in certain spaces up to 5,000~~  
81 ~~contiguous square feet, within a building which has a total~~  
82 ~~area of 2,500 square feet or more."~~

83 "§34-15C-3

84 For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms



## HB337 INTRODUCED

85 ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

86 (1) BOARD. The Alabama Board for Registered Interior  
87 Designers.

88 (2) NCIDQ. The National Council for Interior Design  
89 Qualification.

90 (3) NONSTRUCTURAL ELEMENT. An element of a building or  
91 structure which does not require structural bracing and does  
92 not contribute to the structural integrity of the building.  
93 Nonstructural elements are primarily concerned with the  
94 interior aspects of design and do not include any load-bearing  
95 components. The term includes both non-seismic and  
96 non-structural elements.

97 (4) PRACTICE OF REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGN. The  
98 analysis, planning, design, documentation, and management of  
99 interior nonstructural construction and alteration projects in  
100 compliance with applicable building design and construction,  
101 fire, life-safety, and energy codes, standards, regulations,  
102 and guidelines. The term includes all of the following:

103 a. Programming, space planning, predesign analysis, and  
104 conceptual design of interior nonstructural elements.

105 b. Preparation of documents and technical submissions  
106 related to interior construction, finish materials,  
107 furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.

108 c. Rendering of designs, plans, drawings,  
109 specifications, contract documents, and other interior  
110 technical submissions, and administration of interior  
111 nonstructural element construction and contracts relating to  
112 nonstructural elements in interior alteration or construction



## HB337 INTRODUCED

113 of a proposed or existing building or structure.

114 d. Alteration or construction of interior nonstructural  
115 elements.

116 e. Preparation of a physical plan of space within a  
117 proposed or existing building or structure, including any of  
118 the following:

119 1. Determinations of circulation systems or patterns.

120 2. Determinations of egress requirements based on  
121 occupancy loads.

122 3. Assessment and analysis of interior safety factors  
123 to comply with building codes related to interior  
124 nonstructural/nonseismic elements.

125 4. Design of the exit access and exit components of the  
126 means of egress system within a building based on the  
127 calculated occupant load.

128 5. Interior material selection and application for all  
129 portions of a means of egress system.

130 6. Compliance with applicable building design and  
131 construction, accessibility standards, fire, life-safety, and  
132 energy codes, standards, regulations and guidelines.

133 ~~(3)~~ (5) REGISTERED INTERIOR DESIGNER. An interior design  
134 professional, as defined by the NCIDQ, who is approved and  
135 registered by the board and the Secretary of State.

136 (6) RESPONSIBLE CONTROL. The direct personal  
137 supervision over, and detailed knowledge of, the content of  
138 all contract documents that are ordinarily exercised by a  
139 registered interior designer when applying the requisite  
140 standard of care."



## HB337 INTRODUCED

141 "§34-15C-9

142 (a) ~~Any person who is not a registered interior~~  
143 ~~designer who uses the title~~ Except as otherwise provided in  
144 this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any individual to  
145 engage in the practice of registered interior design or use  
146 the designation "registered interior designer" or any other  
147 designation, words, or letters indicating registration as a  
148 registered interior designer, including abbreviations, or hold  
149 himself or herself out as a registered interior designer on  
150 any sign, card, listing, advertising, business name,  
151 stationery, or in any other manner knowingly implies or  
152 indicates that he or she is a registered interior designer  
153 unless duly registered as such by the board. This subsection  
154 does not prohibit an individual who is exempt, pursuant to  
155 this chapter, from holding himself or herself out to the  
156 public or soliciting business as an interior designer.

157 (b) Any person who is not a registered interior  
158 designer who performs or engages in the practice of registered  
159 interior design or uses the title registered interior designer  
160 shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

161 ~~(b)~~ (c) Any person who is not a registered interior  
162 designer who stamps or seals any document with a stamp or seal  
163 containing the term registered interior designer shall be  
164 guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

165 ~~(e)~~ (d) Any registered interior designer who stamps or  
166 allows to be stamped any document that is not prepared under  
167 his or her supervision and control or any registered interior  
168 designer who seals any plan, specification, report or document



## HB337 INTRODUCED

169 with the seal after the registration of the registered  
170 designer has expired or has been suspended or revoked, unless  
171 the certificate has been renewed or reissued shall be guilty  
172 of a Class A misdemeanor."

173 "§34-15C-10

174 (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to  
175 prohibit any person from making plans and specifications for  
176 or administering the erection, enlargement, or alteration of  
177 any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, or any  
178 single family residence of any size, ~~or of any other type~~  
179 ~~building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square~~  
180 ~~feet, provided the building is not a school, church,~~  
181 ~~auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly~~  
182 ~~occupancy of people.~~

183 (b) Registration under this chapter may not be required  
184 by this state or by any city, town, county, or other  
185 governmental entity or official for the submission, review,  
186 approval, or issuance of permits for plans and specifications  
187 for or to administer the erection, enlargement, or alteration  
188 of any building upon any farm for the use of any farmer, or  
189 any single family residence of any size, ~~or of any other type~~  
190 ~~building which has a total area of less than 2,500 square~~  
191 ~~feet, provided the building is not a school, church,~~  
192 ~~auditorium, or other building intended for the assembly~~  
193 ~~occupancy of people, nor for any activity other than the~~  
194 ~~submission to building officials of construction documents for~~  
195 ~~commercial interior projects in certain spaces up to 5,000~~  
196 ~~contiguous square feet, within a building which has a total~~





## HB337 INTRODUCED

197 ~~area of 2,500 square feet or more.~~

198 (c) Except as expressly provided in subsection (a) or  
199 subsection (b) of Section 34-15C-9, nothing in this chapter  
200 shall be interpreted to prohibit any person who is not a  
201 registered interior designer from conducting any activity not  
202 prohibited by any other state law.

203 ~~(d) The board shall have no jurisdiction over any~~  
204 ~~person who is not a registered interior designer.~~

205 ~~(e) The board may not conduct any disciplinary~~  
206 ~~proceeding against any person who is not a registered interior~~  
207 ~~designer.~~

208 ~~(f) The board may not conduct any disciplinary~~  
209 ~~proceeding or initiate any other action based upon the use of~~  
210 ~~the term design, designer, interior design, or interior~~  
211 ~~designer by any person, business, or firm at any time before~~  
212 ~~or after August 1, 2010."~~

213 "§34-15C-15

214 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
215 contrary, a registered interior designer may submit sealed,  
216 stamped drawings to building officials for a commercial  
217 interior project ~~in any space of less than 5,000 contiguous~~  
218 ~~square feet within a building~~ of any size provided that ~~all of~~  
219 ~~the following requirements are satisfied:~~

220 ~~(1) The space may not be intended for use as a school,~~  
221 ~~church, auditorium, or other space intended for the assembly~~  
222 ~~occupancy of people.~~

223 ~~(2) Unless~~ unless the drawings utilize, reference, and  
224 incorporate documents prepared by architects, engineers, or



## HB337 INTRODUCED

225 other related professionals, the drawings may not include the  
226 design or modification of architectural and engineering  
227 interior construction relating to building systems, such as  
228 building structural support, fire rated assemblies,  
229 stairwells, means of egress components, elevators, elevator  
230 shafts, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fire  
231 protection, and mechanical and electrical systems, except for  
232 the scope of interior services as defined by the NCIDQ or for  
233 the coordination of the aesthetic requirements of fixtures.

234 (b) Any official of this state or of any city, town, or  
235 county charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances, or  
236 regulations relating to the construction or alteration of  
237 buildings may accept or approve and issue permits based upon  
238 any of the following:

239 (1) Plans or specifications prepared by any person  
240 registered pursuant to this chapter, provided the plans or  
241 specifications are consistent with this chapter.

242 (2) Plans and specifications for the erection,  
243 enlargement, or alteration of any building upon any farm for  
244 the use of any farmer, or of any single family residence of  
245 any size, ~~or of any other type building which has a total area~~  
246 ~~of less than 2,500 square feet, provided the building is not a~~  
247 ~~school, church, auditorium, or other building intended for the~~  
248 ~~assembly occupancy of people.~~

249 (3) Plans and specifications which ~~such~~ the official is  
250 not prohibited from accepting pursuant to any other state law  
251 on August 1, 2010."

252 Section 2. Section 34-15C-10.1 is added to the Code of



## HB337 INTRODUCED

253 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

254 (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
255 authorize a registered interior designer to engage in the  
256 practice of professional engineering or architecture in this  
257 state or provide services that constitute the practice of  
258 professional engineering or architecture, except as otherwise  
259 provided in this chapter and incidental to the practice of  
260 registered interior design.

261 (b) The practice of registered interior design does not  
262 include modifications or additions to any of the following:

263 (1) Changes of building use to an occupancy not already  
264 allowed by the current building or structure or changes of  
265 building use to an occupancy of a greater hazard.

266 (2) The construction classification of the building or  
267 structure according to the International Building Code.

268 (3) The structural system of a building, including  
269 changing the building's dead load on the structural system.

270 (4) The building envelope, including exterior walls,  
271 exterior wall claddings, exterior wall openings, exterior  
272 windows and doors, balconies and similar projections, roof  
273 assemblies and rooftop structures, and glass and glazing for  
274 exterior use in both vertical and sloped applications in  
275 buildings and structures.

276 (5) Mechanical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning,  
277 ventilation, electrical, low voltage systems, elevators and  
278 conveying systems, fire protection systems, or fire alarm  
279 systems.

280 (6) Design of or modifications to an exit stair or exit



## HB337 INTRODUCED

281 discharge portion of a means of egress system.

282 (7) Construction that materially affects life safety  
283 systems pertaining to fire safety of structural elements or  
284 the fire protection of structural elements, smoke evacuation  
285 and compartmentalization systems, or fire-rated vertical  
286 shafts in multi-story structures.

287 (c) The following individuals are not required to  
288 obtain a certificate of registration pursuant to this chapter:

289 (1) A licensed or registered architect.

290 (2) An individual engaging in work as an employee of an  
291 architect or registered interior designer, if the work does  
292 not include responsible control, or a consultant retained by  
293 an architect or registered interior designer.

294 (3) An individual who prepares plans, drawings, or  
295 specifications for buildings for their personal private  
296 residential use.

297 (4) An individual who prepares drawings of the layout  
298 of materials or furnishings used in interior design or in the  
299 selection of materials or furnishings pursuant to a retail  
300 sale including any of the following:

301 a. Decorative accessories.

302 b. Wall coverings, wall finishes, or paint.

303 c. Floor coverings, tile, wood, stone, or concrete.

304 d. Window coverings.

305 e. Lighting fixtures which do not disrupt structural  
306 elements.

307 f. Plumbing fixtures which do not disrupt structural  
308 elements.



## HB337 INTRODUCED

309 g. Professional services limited to the design of  
310 kitchen and bath spaces or the specification of products for  
311 kitchen and bath areas in noncommercial settings.

312 h. Furniture, equipment, cabinetry, or millwork, if the  
313 preparation or implementation of those drawings or the  
314 installation of those materials or furnishings is not  
315 regulated by any building code or other law, ordinance, rule,  
316 or regulation governing the alteration or construction of a  
317 structure unless regulated items are reviewed and approved by  
318 a registered design professional as defined by the  
319 International Building Code.

320 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
321 1, 2025.