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Interior Designer Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Luz Escamilla

House Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill modifies the State Certification of Commercial Interior Designers Act.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ modifies definitions;

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▸ removes occupancy group limitations to allow practice within any occupancy

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classification within a specified scope;

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▸ deletes the wall partition height limitation;

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▸ adds conduct to unlawful conduct; and

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▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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58-86-102, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 294

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58-86-301, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 294

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

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Section 1. Section **58-86-102** is amended to read:

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58-86-102 . Definitions.

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[In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as] As used in this chapter:

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(1) "Building" means an enclosed structure, including the structural, mechanical, and

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electrical systems, utility services, and other facilities [~~required for the structure~~] the

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structure requires, that has human occupancy or habitation as [~~its~~] the structure's

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principal purpose and is subject to the State Construction Code or an approved code

31 under Title 15A, State Construction and Fire Codes Act.

32 (2) "International Building Code" means the edition of the International Building Code,
 33 issued by the International Code Council, most recently adopted by the state in Section
 34 15A-2-103.

35 (3)(a) "Practice of commercial interior design" means, in relation to obtaining a building
 36 permit independent of an architect licensed under Title 58, Chapter 3a, Architects
 37 Licensing Act, the preparation of a plan or specification for, or the supervision of
 38 new construction, alteration, or repair of, an interior space within a newly constructed
 39 or existing building when the core and shell structural elements are not going to be
 40 changed.

41 (b) "Practice of commercial interior design" only includes the preparation of a plan or
 42 specification for, or the supervision of new construction, alteration, or repair of, a
 43 building ~~[to be used for the following occupancy groups as described in the~~
 44 ~~International Building Code:]~~ for any occupancy classification in the International
 45 Building Code if the work is limited to non-structural, non-seismic, and
 46 non-load-bearing interior elements in accordance with this section.

47 ~~[(i) B; and]~~

48 ~~[(ii) M.]~~

49 (c) "Practice of commercial interior design" does not include:

50 (i) providing commercial construction documents, independent of a licensed
 51 architect, for a space that:

52 (A) ~~[does not already have]~~ is lacking base building life safety components
 53 installed or designed and permitted, including required exit stairs and
 54 enclosures, paths of travel, ramps, horizontal exit passageways, disabled
 55 access, fire alarm systems, and base building fire suppression systems; or

56 (B) ~~is undergoing a change of occupancy classification [as described in the~~
 57 ~~International Building Code]~~ when a licensed architect or a licensed engineer is
 58 required in accordance with the International Building Code; or

59 (ii) making changes to or [the] an addition of:

60 (A) ~~[foundations, beams, trusses, columns, or other primary structural framing~~
 61 ~~members or seismic systems]~~ a foundation, a beam, a truss, a column, or other
 62 primary structural framing member or seismic system;

63 (B) ~~[structural concrete slabs, floor and roof framing structures, or bearing and~~
 64 ~~shear walls]~~ a structural concrete slab, a floor or roof framing structure, or a

- 65 bearing or shear wall;
- 66 (C) [~~openings in roofs, floors, exterior walls, or bearing and shear walls~~] an
- 67 opening in the roof, a floor, an exterior wall, a bearing or shear wall;
- 68 (D) [~~exterior doors, windows, awnings, canopies, sunshades, signage, or similar~~
- 69 ~~exterior building elements~~] an exterior door, a window, an awning, a canopy, a
- 70 sunshade, signage, or a similar exterior building element;
- 71 (E) as described in the International Building Code, life safety equipment,
- 72 including a smoke, fire, or a carbon dioxide [~~sensors or detectors, or other~~
- 73 ~~overhead building elements;~~] sensor or detector, or an overhead building
- 74 element; or
- 75 [(F) as described in the International Building Code, partial height partitions with
- 76 ~~mounted or anchored casework, shelving, or equipment;~~]
- 77 [(G) as described in the International Building Code, bracing for partial height
- 78 ~~partitions if the top of the partition is more than eight feet above the floor; or]~~
- 79 [(H) (F) a piece of heating, ventilating, or air conditioning equipment or [
- 80 distribution systems;] a heating, ventilating, or air conditioning distribution
- 81 system, a building management [systems,] system, a high or medium voltage
- 82 electrical distribution [systems,] system, a standby or emergency power [
- 83 ~~systems or distribution systems, plumbing or plumbing distribution systems;~~
- 84 system, plumbing, a fire alarm [systems, fire sprinklers systems,] system, a fire
- 85 sprinkler system, a security or monitoring [systems, or] system, or a related
- 86 building [systems] system.
- 87 (4) "State certification" means a designation [~~granted by the division~~] the division grants on
- 88 behalf of the state to an individual who [~~has met~~] meets the requirements [~~for state~~
- 89 ~~certification related to~~] for an occupation or profession [~~described in~~]this chapter
- 90 describes.
- 91 [(5) "State-certified" means, when used in conjunction with an occupation or profession
- 92 ~~described in this chapter, a title that:~~]
- 93 [(a) ~~may be used by a person who has met the state certification requirements related to~~
- 94 ~~that occupation or profession described in this chapter; and]~~
- 95 [(b) ~~may not be used by a person who has not met the state certification requirements~~
- 96 ~~related to that occupation or profession described in this chapter.;~~]
- 97 [(6) (5) "Unlawful conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Sections 58-1-501
- 98 and 58-86-301.

99 Section 2. Section **58-86-301** is amended to read:

100 **58-86-301 . Unlawful conduct.**

101 "Unlawful conduct" includes:

102 (1)(a) [~~using the title "state certified commercial interior designer" if the person is not a~~
103 ~~state certified commercial interior designer in good standing under this chapter; or]~~
104 using the title state certified commercial interior designer, or representing that the
105 individual is a state certified commercial interior designer if the individual is not a
106 state certified commercial interior designer; or

107 (b) using any other name, title, or initials that would cause a reasonable person to
108 believe the person is licensed under this chapter if the person is not properly licensed
109 under this chapter; or

110 (2) engaging in the practice of commercial interior design unless exempted from licensure
111 or state certification under Section 58-1-307 or 58-86-206.

112 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

113 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.