

LACN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative and Regulatory E-mailed news and information
from the Lumber Association of California & Nevada

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This E-mailed report is a service of your Lumber Association of California & Nevada with current information on legislative and regulatory matters. In most instances there will be additional information attached with this report. If there are others in your firm who should receive this report, please contact kend@lumberassociation.org.

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INTERIOR DESIGN PRACTICE ACT – SENATE BILL 1312 - FAILS IN SENATE. LACN POSITION PREVAILS.

Senate Bill 1312, which would have severely impacted the ability of lumber and building materials dealers who sell home and business décor products and offer design and consultation services as part of that line, is in the inactive file for this legislative session and likely dead. There is always the possibility of maneuvers that could amend the bill's provisions into another bill, and the bill sponsors have not indicated their intent for the remainder of the session. But the senate action shows little support for the bill.

LACN was one of the organizations actively opposing the legislation, in committee hearings and in individual discussions with legislators. Despite several meetings with the bill's principal sponsor, Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo), he refused to budge on the bill. In the end, however, while the legislation got "courtesy" passes from two committees and was headed to the senate floor, it was clear that there were not the votes to pass it in the senate.

Under this legislation, many of those businesses offering such products and services would have been prohibited from offering those services without costly and unnecessary credentialing and licensing.

It was clearly demonstrated that existing laws and regulations are in place to address concerns of design and consultations services. This legislation was largely the actions of competing interests within the design profession for one organization to designate their own members as the only "registered" practitioners and maintain control of the credentialing process.

Finally, there was simply no proof of a need for such legislation. The role of the state is to ensure the public health and safety of the public. No such need existed in this instance.