

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 332

(Senator Hollinger)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

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**Business Occupations and Professions - Certified Interior Designers - Seal**

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This bill requires certified interior designers to obtain a seal to endorse documents. The State Board of Certified Interior Designers is authorized to reprimand a certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a certificate if the certificate holder signs or seals any interior design documents after the certificate holder's certificate has expired or has been suspended or revoked. Certified interior designers must sign, seal, and date any interior design documents submitted to clients or public authorities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources. Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to a new violation created under existing penalty provisions.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** Under the bill, if a certificate holder signs or seals any interior design documents after the certificate holder's certificate expires, or has been suspended or revoked by the board, the certificate holder may be fined for up to \$5,000 instead of or in addition to a reprimand, or suspension or revocation of the holder's certificate. The board will determine the design of the seal, which must include specified information.

**Current Law:** There is no statutory requirement for the use of a seal by a certified interior designer.

The board may deny a certificate to an applicant, or reprimand a certificate holder, or revoke or suspend a certificate if an individual is convicted of a felony, or convicted of a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the individual to perform certified interior design services. The board may take the same actions if an individual is guilty of any fraud, gross negligence, incompetence, or misconduct in the use of the title “certified interior designer” or the term “certified interior design services,” or if an individual knowingly violates any provision of the code of ethics that the board adopts, or knowingly violates any provision of Title 8 -- Certified Interior Designers -- of the Business Occupations and Professions Article.

Instead of, or in addition to, reprimanding a certificate holder, or suspending or revoking a certificate, the board may impose a penalty not more than \$5,000 for each violation.

**Background:** Other professional occupations such as land surveyors, property line surveyors, architects, and engineers use seals to certify documents.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2002  
mld/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 22, 2002

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Analysis by: Mitchell J. McCalmon

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510