



RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
of MASSACHUSETTS

The Voice of Retailing

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RETAILERS ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS OPPOSES THE LICENSING OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Boston—The Retailers Association of Massachusetts (RAM) voiced their opposition of a licensing proposal of interior designers before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure. Jon Hurst, President of RAM, called the measure a threat to many small businesses and professionals in the Commonwealth.

“The all-encompassing definition of interior designer will cover many employees at retail outlets who may simply help customers pick out paint colors or furniture,” Hurst said. “This bill is anti-competitive and will prevent experienced professionals from doing the work they have done without complaint for many years. By creating a licensing requirement, many jobs will be threatened and many retail establishments will be prevented from operating in a manner that has proved beneficial to their customers.”

Licensing and titling laws are used to protect public health, safety and welfare. While many occupations need to be licensed to ensure practitioners have the knowledge and skills necessary to avoid harming the public, the profession of interior design does not pose a threat to the public. Unnecessary regulation and licensing requirements will severely deprive many people from their livelihoods without just cause.

“Inevitably, consumer prices will be driven up due to the scarcity of designers. Countless small business owners that hire experienced interior designers will not be able to afford designers that are certified under this act and will therefore no longer offer this type of service,” noted Hurst. “Denial of free enterprise and elimination of competition will result from the proposed requirements.”

The Retailers Association of Massachusetts is a statewide trade association of 3,000 retailers of all types and sizes. RAM was founded in 1910, and is based in Boston. The retail sector in Massachusetts employs 560,000 residents, and has total sales of \$90 billion annually.