

**SUBJECT:** Removing penalties for the unregistered practice of interior design

**COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — T. King, Goldman, Geren, Harless, Hernandez, Herrero, K. King, Kuempel, Paddie

0 nays

2 absent — Guillen, S. Thompson

**WITNESSES:** For — Russell Withers, Texas Conservative Coalition; Kelley Barnett; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Douglas Smith, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition)

Against — None

On — Donna Vining, Texas Association for Interior Design; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Julie Hildebrand, Texas Board of Architectural Examiners)

**DIGEST:** HB 1894 would repeal the criminal penalty that makes it a class C misdemeanor (maximum fine of up to \$500) for persons other than interior designers to knowingly use the title "registered interior designer," imply that they are registered interior designers, or violate any statutory standard of conduct governing interior designers.

HB 1894 also would prohibit the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners from imposing an administrative penalty on a person who was practicing interior design if that person was not a registered interior designer.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would not apply to an offense or violation committed before that date.