

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS AND
INTERIOR DESIGNERS
Conference Call
February 4, 2009**

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 via Conference Call.

The following Board Members were present:

Anne K. Smith, Board Chairperson
Camille Puckett, Board Vice-Chairperson
Niles Bolton
Ivenue Love-Stanley
David Maschke
Laurie McRae
Jim Mehserle
Andrew Pace

Others present were:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director
Ruth Reece, Licensing Analyst
Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist
Janet Wray, Board Attorney

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding House Bill 231, which includes the exact language as State Bill 28. Ms. Puckett asked that the Board hold off on discussing the proposal of alternative language for the two bills until Ms. McRae called in. The Board agreed. Ms. McRae joined the conference call at 3:14 p.m.

Chairperson Smith called on each board member individually for comment. Ms. Puckett indicated that she was in favor of Option 1, which reads:

(5) Non load-bearing interior construction for the alteration or construction of an interior area of a structure designed for human occupancy, including specifications for partitions, materials, finishes, furniture, fixtures and equipment, in existing or planned structures designed by a registered architect may be prepared by a Georgia registered interior designer where:

- a. The building exterior envelope and existing structural system will not be altered.*
- b. The life safety systems, egress passageways and stairs, construction type and occupancy classification will not be altered.*
- c. The facility is not classified as high hazard.*
- d. The facility is not a correctional or detention facility.*
- e. The Georgia registered interior designer submits to the responsible building official a notarized and signed statement on letterhead from a person in a position of authority within the interior design firm certifying that the plans and specifications as submitted are in full compliance with the current building codes and regulations in effect.*

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- f. The Georgia registered interior designer is certified by the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID) to prepare designs for areas classified as operator or hazardous treatment areas within healthcare facilities,*

provided that “occupation classification will not be altered” is removed.

Mr. Maschke indicated that he was not sure why the Board felt pressure to provide alternate language for the bill. Ms. McRae stated that it was because the Board was asked to do so by a professional association and that it was the Board’s responsibility to support members of the industry. Mr. Mehserle agreed partly but stated the public safety and welfare of the citizens of Georgia was the Board’s primary responsibility. Mr. Mashke continued to say that he would support Option 2, which reads:

(5) Non load-bearing interior construction, except in new or existing assembly occupancies, educational occupancies, health care occupancies, correctional or detention facilities, hotels, dormitories or lodging facilities, multifamily housing or apartment complexes, care facilities, and facilities classified as high hazard, in existing or planned structures which were designed by a registered architect may be prepared by a Georgia registered interior designer where:

The building exterior envelope and existing structural system will not be altered:

- a. The life safety systems, egress passageways and stairs, construction type and occupancy classification will not be altered.*
- b. The Georgia registered interior designer submits to the responsible building official a notarized and signed statement on letterhead from a person in a position of authority within the interior design firm certifying that the plans and specifications as submitted are in full compliance with the current building codes and regulations in effect.*

Mr. Maschke also stated that he would like “person of authority” expanded to reflect the language that defines such for architects in O.C.G.A. § 43-4-10(b). Mr. Maschke also pointed out that the lettering was incorrect in Option 2 and asked that it be corrected.

Ms. McRae supported Option 1.

Mr. Mehserle stated he would support Option 2 along with the modifications about “person of authority” articulated by Mr. Maschke along with inserting an “and” to include all three conditions.

Mr. Pace stated that he was hesitant to react, but would support Option 2.

Ms. Love-Stanley stated that she was in support of Option 2 along with the modifications regarding “person of authority.”

Chairperson Smith stated she was in support of Option 2 along with the modifications regarding “person of authority.”

Mr. Bolton indicated that he was in support of Option 1.

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A motion was made by Jim Mehserle, seconded by Andrew Pace, to support the alternative language in Option 2. Chairperson Smith called for discussion after which Mr. Mehserle amended his motion to include the following modifications: 1. to correct the lettering; and 2. to incorporate the language discussed defining “person of authority”. Mr. Pace seconded the motion along with the amendments. Ms. Puckett, Mr. Bolton and Ms. McRae voted in opposition of the motion; Mr. Maschke, Mr. Mehserle, Mr. Pace and Chairperson Smith voted in favor of the motion and thus, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Camille Puckett, seconded by Laurie McRae, to include, in the correspondence to the legislators, the names of and vote of each board member. Discussion ensued. The motion was passed.

With no other business for the Board to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist

Minutes Edited/Reviewed by:

Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director