

BY adding to

Article - Business Occupations and Professions

Section 8-403 and 8-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Business Occupations and Professions**

8-310.

(a) (1) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 8-312 of this subtitle, the Board may deny a certificate to any applicant, reprimand any certificate holder, or suspend or revoke a certificate if the applicant or certificate holder:

(i) fraudulently or deceptively obtains or renews or attempts to obtain or renew a certificate for the applicant or certificate holder or for another;

(ii) fraudulently or deceptively uses the title "certified interior designer" or the term "certified interior design services";

(iii) under the laws of the United States or of any state, is convicted of:

1. a felony; or

2. a misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and qualification of the applicant or certificate holder to perform certified interior design services;

(iv) 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";

(v) SIGNS OR SEALS ANY INTERIOR DESIGN DOCUMENTS AFTER A CERTIFICATE HOLDER'S CERTIFICATE EXPIRES OR HAS BEEN SUSPENDED OR REVOKED BY THE BOARD;

(VI) knowingly violates any provision of the code of ethics that the Board adopts; or

[(vi)] (VII) knowingly violates any provision of this title.

(2) (i) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding a certificate holder or suspending or revoking a certificate under this subsection, the Board may impose a penalty not exceeding \$5,000 for each violation.

(ii) To determine the amount of the penalty imposed under this subsection, the Board shall consider:

1. the seriousness of the violation;