
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6710

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser and Marr; by request of Washington State Patrol)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to standards for fire protection of hospitals; and
2 amending RCW 70.41.080 and 18.160.050.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.41.080 and 2004 c 261 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 Standards for fire protection and the enforcement thereof, with
7 respect to all hospitals to be licensed hereunder shall be the
8 responsibility of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the
9 director of fire protection, who shall adopt, after approval by the
10 department, (~~such~~) the recognized standards (~~as may be~~) applicable
11 to hospitals for the protection of life against the cause and spread of
12 fire and fire hazards(~~(. Such standards shall be consistent with the~~
13 ~~standards)~~) adopted by the federal centers for medicare and medicaid
14 services for hospitals that care for medicare or medicaid
15 beneficiaries. The standards used for an inspection of an existing
16 hospital, or existing portion thereof, shall be standards for existing
17 buildings and not standards for new construction. The department upon
18 receipt of an application for a license, shall submit to the director
19 of fire protection in writing, a request for an inspection, giving the

1 applicant's name and the location of the premises to be licensed. Upon
2 receipt of such a request, the chief of the Washington state patrol,
3 through the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, shall
4 make an inspection of the hospital to be licensed(~~(, and)~~) during the
5 department's inspection. If it is found that the premises do not
6 comply with the required safety standards and fire regulations as
7 adopted pursuant to this chapter, (~~he or she~~) the director of fire
8 protection, or his or her deputy, shall promptly make a written report
9 to (~~the hospital and to~~) the department listing the corrective
10 actions required (~~and the time allowed for accomplishing such~~
11 ~~corrections~~). The department shall incorporate the written report
12 into the department's final inspection report. The applicant or
13 licensee shall (~~notify the chief of the Washington state patrol,~~
14 ~~through the director of fire protection, upon completion of any~~
15 ~~corrections required by him or her, and the chief of the Washington~~
16 ~~state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or his or her~~
17 ~~deputy, shall make a reinspection of such premises~~) submit corrections
18 to comply with the fire protection standards along with any other
19 licensing inspection corrections to the department. The department
20 shall submit the section of the statement of corrections from the
21 applicant or licensee regarding fire protection standards to the
22 director of fire protection. If extensive and serious corrections are
23 required, the director of fire protection, or his or her deputy, may
24 reinspect the premises. The director of fire protection, or his or her
25 deputy, shall utilize the scope and severity matrix developed by the
26 centers for medicare and medicaid services when determining what
27 corrections will require a reinspection. Whenever the hospital to be
28 licensed meets with the approval of the chief of the Washington state
29 patrol, through the director of fire protection, he or she shall submit
30 to the department, in a timely manner so the license will not be
31 delayed, a written report approving the hospital with respect to fire
32 protection, and such report is required before a full license can be
33 issued. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director
34 of fire protection, shall make or cause to be made inspections of such
35 hospitals on average at least once (~~a year~~) every eighteen months.
36 Inspections conducted by the joint commission on hospitals accredited
37 by it shall be deemed equivalent to an inspection by the chief of the

1 Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for
2 purposes of meeting the requirements for the inspections specified in
3 this section.

4 The director of fire protection shall designate one lead deputy
5 state fire marshal on a regional basis to provide consistency with each
6 of the department's survey teams for the purpose of conducting the fire
7 protection inspection during the department's licensing inspection.
8 The director of fire protection shall ensure deputy state fire marshals
9 are provided orientation with the department on the unique environment
10 of hospitals before they conduct fire protection inspections in
11 hospitals. The orientation shall include, but not be limited to:
12 Clinical environment of hospitals; operating room environment; fire
13 protection practices in hospitals; full participation in a complete
14 licensing inspection of at least one urban hospital; and full
15 participation in a complete licensing inspection of at least one rural
16 hospital.

17 In cities which have in force a comprehensive building code, the
18 provisions of which are determined by the chief of the Washington state
19 patrol, through the director of fire protection, to be equal to the
20 minimum standards of the code for hospitals adopted by the chief of the
21 Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, the
22 chief of the fire department, provided the latter is a paid chief of a
23 paid fire department, shall make the inspection with the chief of the
24 Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, or
25 his or her deputy and they shall jointly approve the premises before a
26 full license can be issued.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 18.160.050 and 2005 c 109 s 1 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1)(a) All certificate of competency holders that desire to
30 continue in the fire protection sprinkler business shall annually,
31 prior to January 1, secure from the state director of fire protection
32 a renewal certificate of competency upon payment of the fee as
33 prescribed by the state director of fire protection. Application for
34 renewal shall be upon a form prescribed by the state director of fire
35 protection and the certificate holder shall furnish the information
36 required by the director.

1 (b) Failure of any certificate of competency holder to secure his
2 or her renewal certificate of competency within sixty days after the
3 due date shall constitute sufficient cause for the state director of
4 fire protection to suspend the certificate of competency.

5 (c) The state director of fire protection may, upon the receipt of
6 payment of all delinquent fees including a late charge, restore a
7 certificate of competency that has been suspended for failure to pay
8 the renewal fee.

9 (d) A certificate of competency holder may voluntarily surrender
10 his or her certificate of competency to the state director of fire
11 protection and be relieved of the annual renewal fee. After
12 surrendering the certificate of competency, he or she shall not be
13 known as a certificate of competency holder and shall desist from the
14 practice thereof. Within two years from the time of surrender of the
15 certificate of competency, he or she may again qualify for a
16 certificate of competency, without examination, by the payment of the
17 required fee. If two or more years have elapsed, he or she shall
18 return to the status of a new applicant.

19 (2)(a) All licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractors
20 desiring to continue to be licensed shall annually, prior to January 1,
21 secure from the state director of fire protection a renewal license
22 upon payment of the fee as prescribed by the state director of fire
23 protection. Application for renewal shall be upon a form prescribed by
24 the state director of fire protection and the license holder shall
25 furnish the information required by the director.

26 (b) Failure of any license holder to secure his or her renewal
27 license within sixty days after the due date shall constitute
28 sufficient cause for the state director of fire protection to suspend
29 the license.

30 (c) The state director of fire protection may, upon the receipt of
31 payment of all delinquent fees including a late charge, restore a
32 license that has been suspended for failure to pay the renewal fee.

33 (3) The initial certificate of competency or license fee shall be
34 prorated based upon the portion of the year such certificate of
35 competency or license is in effect, prior to renewal on January 1.

36 (4) The fire protection contractor license fund is created in the
37 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from license and
38 certificate fees and charges or from the money generated by the rules

1 and regulations promulgated under this chapter shall be deposited into
2 the fund. Expenditures from the fund may be used only for purposes
3 authorized under this chapter and standards for fire protection and its
4 enforcement, with respect to all hospitals as required by RCW
5 70.41.080, and for providing assistance in identifying fire sprinkler
6 system components that have been subject to either a recall or
7 voluntary replacement program by a manufacturer of fire sprinkler
8 products, a nationally recognized testing laboratory, or the federal
9 consumer product safety commission. Assistance shall include, but is
10 not limited to, aiding in the identification of recalled components,
11 information sharing strategies aimed at ensuring the consumer is made
12 aware of recalls and voluntary replacement programs, and providing
13 training and assistance to local fire authorities, the fire sprinkler
14 industry, and the public. Only the state director of fire protection
15 or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the fund.
16 The fund is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
17 but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

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