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HOUSE BILL 2249

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State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Short, Buys, Kretz, Overstreet, and Condotta

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to the two climate zones within the building codes;  
2 amending RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27A.020; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that the state  
5 building code council adopted by rule changes to the climate zones used  
6 in the building codes due to modifications in the 2012 international  
7 energy conservation code (IECC). The legislature intends to update the  
8 statutes to be more reflective of the national standards.

9            **Sec. 2.**    RCW 19.27.031 and 2003 c 291 s 2 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11            Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, there shall be in  
12 effect in all counties and cities the state building code which shall  
13 consist of the following codes which are hereby adopted by reference:

14            (1)(a) The International Building Code, published by the  
15 International Code Council(~~{,}~~), Inc.;

16            (b) The International Residential Code, published by the  
17 International Code Council, Inc.;

1 (2) The International Mechanical Code, published by the  
2 International Code Council(~~(ICCI)~~)<sub>L</sub> Inc., except that the standards for  
3 liquified petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Storage and  
4 Handling of Liquified Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54  
5 (National Fuel Gas Code);

6 (3) The International Fire Code, published by the International  
7 Code Council(~~(ICCI)~~)<sub>L</sub> Inc., including those standards of the National  
8 Fire Protection Association specifically referenced in the  
9 International Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording  
10 in this code, participants in religious ceremonies shall not be  
11 precluded from carrying hand-held candles;

12 (4) Except as provided in RCW 19.27.170, the Uniform Plumbing Code  
13 and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the International  
14 Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials: PROVIDED, That any  
15 provisions of such code affecting sewers or fuel gas piping are not  
16 adopted; (~~and~~)

17 (5) The rules adopted by the council establishing standards for  
18 making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by (~~the~~  
19 ~~physically disabled~~) individuals with disabilities or elderly persons  
20 as provided in RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

21 (6) The state's climate zones for building purposes are designated  
22 in RCW 19.27A.020(3) and may not be changed through adoption of codes  
23 published by the International Code Council, Inc.

24 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections (1),  
25 (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the first named code shall govern  
26 over those following.

27 The codes enumerated in this section shall be adopted by the  
28 council as provided in RCW 19.27.074. The council shall solicit input  
29 from first responders to ensure that firefighter safety issues are  
30 addressed during the code adoption process.

31 The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the request  
32 of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the enumerated  
33 codes.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27A.020 and 2010 c 271 s 304 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) The state building code council shall adopt rules to be known  
37 as the Washington state energy code as part of the state building code.

1 (2) The council shall follow the legislature's standards set forth  
2 in this section to adopt rules to be known as the Washington state  
3 energy code. The Washington state energy code shall be designed to:

4 (a) Construct increasingly energy efficient homes and buildings  
5 that help achieve the broader goal of building zero fossil-fuel  
6 greenhouse gas emission homes and buildings by the year 2031;

7 (b) Require new buildings to meet a certain level of energy  
8 efficiency, but allow flexibility in building design, construction, and  
9 heating equipment efficiencies within that framework; and

10 (c) Allow space heating equipment efficiency to offset or  
11 substitute for building envelope thermal performance.

12 (3) The Washington state energy code shall take into account  
13 regional climatic conditions. Climate zone 1 shall include all  
14 counties not included in climate zone 2. Climate zone 2 includes:  
15 Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin,  
16 Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania,  
17 Spokane, Stevens, ((and)) Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties.

18 (4) The Washington state energy code for residential buildings  
19 shall be the 2006 edition of the Washington state energy code, or as  
20 amended by rule by the council.

21 (5) The minimum state energy code for new nonresidential buildings  
22 shall be the Washington state energy code, 2006 edition, or as amended  
23 by the council by rule.

24 (6)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the Washington  
25 state energy code for residential structures shall preempt the  
26 residential energy code of each city, town, and county in the state of  
27 Washington.

28 (b) The state energy code for residential structures does not  
29 preempt a city, town, or county's energy code for residential  
30 structures which exceeds the requirements of the state energy code and  
31 which was adopted by the city, town, or county prior to March 1, 1990.  
32 Such cities, towns, or counties may not subsequently amend their energy  
33 code for residential structures to exceed the requirements adopted  
34 prior to March 1, 1990.

35 (7) The state building code council shall consult with the  
36 department of ((general administration)) enterprise services as  
37 provided in RCW 34.05.310 prior to publication of proposed rules. The  
38 director of the department of ((general administration)) enterprise

1 services shall recommend to the state building code council any changes  
2 necessary to conform the proposed rules to the requirements of this  
3 section.

4 (8) The state building code council shall evaluate and consider  
5 adoption of the international energy conservation code in Washington  
6 state in place of the existing state energy code.

7 (9) The definitions in RCW 19.27A.140 apply throughout this  
8 section.

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