

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1555**

---

**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Local Government & Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives Dunshee, Mulliken, Cooper, Cairnes, Kirby and Mielke)

Read first time 02/04/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to state building codes; amending RCW 19.27.031,  
2 19.27.080, and 19.27.110; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The intent of the adoption of the  
6 International Building Code by the legislature is to remain consistent  
7 with state laws regulating construction, including electrical,  
8 plumbing, and energy codes established in chapters 19.27, 19.27A, and  
9 19.28 RCW. The International Building Code references the  
10 International Residential Code for provisions related to the  
11 construction of single and multiple-family dwellings. No portion of  
12 the International Residential Code shall supersede or take precedent  
13 over provisions in chapter 19.28 RCW, regulating the electrical code;  
14 nor provisions in RCW 19.27.031(4), regulating the plumbing code; nor  
15 provisions in chapter 19.27A RCW, regulating the energy code.

16 (2) It is in the state's interest and consistent with the state  
17 building code act to have in effect provisions regulating the  
18 construction of single and multiple-family residences. It is the  
19 legislative intent that the state building code council adopt the

1 International Residential Code through rule making granted in RCW  
2 19.27.074, consistent with state law regulating construction for  
3 electrical, plumbing, and energy codes, and other state and federal  
4 laws regulating single and multiple-family construction.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.031 and 1995 c 343 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

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

10 (1) ~~((Uniform))~~ (a) The International Building Code ((and Uniform  
11 Building Code Standards)), published by the International ~~((Conference~~  
12 ~~of Building Officials))~~ Code Council Inc.;

13 (b) The International Residential Code, published by the  
14 International Code Council, Inc.;

15 (2) ~~((Uniform))~~ The International Mechanical Code, ((including  
16 Chapter 13, Fuel Gas Piping, Appendix B,)) published by the  
17 International ~~((Conference of Building Officials))~~ Code Council Inc.;

18 (3) The ~~((Uniform))~~ International Fire Code ((and Uniform Fire Code  
19 Standards)), published by the International ~~((Fire Code Institute))~~  
20 Code Council Inc.: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this  
21 code, participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from  
22 carrying hand-held candles;

23 (4) Except as provided in RCW 19.27.170, the Uniform Plumbing Code  
24 and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the International  
25 Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials: PROVIDED, That  
26 ~~((chapters 11 and 12))~~ any provisions of such code affecting sewers or  
27 fuel gas piping are not adopted; and

28 (5) The rules ~~((and regulations))~~ adopted by the council  
29 establishing standards for making buildings and facilities accessible  
30 to and usable by the physically ~~((handicapped))~~ disabled or elderly  
31 persons as provided in RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160.

32 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections (1),  
33 (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the first named code shall govern  
34 over those following.

35 The codes enumerated in this section shall be adopted by the  
36 council as provided in RCW 19.27.074.

1 The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the request  
2 of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the enumerated  
3 codes.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27.080 and 1990 c 33 s 555 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Nothing in this chapter affects the provisions of chapters 19.27A,  
7 19.28, 43.22, 70.77, 70.79, 70.87, 48.48, 18.20, 18.46, 18.51, 28A.305,  
8 70.41, 70.62, 70.75, 70.108, 71.12, 74.15, 70.94, 76.04, 90.76 RCW, or  
9 RCW 28A.195.010, or grants rights to duplicate the authorities provided  
10 under chapters 70.94 or 76.04 RCW.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.27.110 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 37 s 1 are each  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Each county government shall administer and enforce the ((uniform))  
14 International Fire Code in the unincorporated areas of the county:  
15 PROVIDED, That any political subdivision or municipal corporation  
16 providing fire protection pursuant to RCW 14.08.120 shall, at its sole  
17 option, be responsible for administration and enforcement of the  
18 ((uniform)) International Fire Code on its facility. Any fire  
19 protection district or political subdivision may, pursuant to chapter  
20 39.34 RCW, the interlocal cooperation act, assume all or a portion of  
21 the administering responsibility and coordinate and cooperate with the  
22 county government in the enforcement of the ((uniform)) International  
23 Fire Code.

24 It is not the intent of RCW 19.27.110 and 19.27.111 to preclude or  
25 limit the authority of any city, town, county, fire protection  
26 district, state agency, or political subdivision from engaging in those  
27 fire prevention activities with which they are charged.

28 It is not the intent of the legislature by adopting the state  
29 building code or RCW 19.27.110 and 19.27.111 to grant counties any more  
30 power to suppress or extinguish fires than counties currently possess  
31 under the Constitution or other statutes.

32 Each county is authorized to impose fees sufficient to pay the cost  
33 of inspections, administration, and enforcement pursuant to RCW  
34 19.27.110 and 19.27.111.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   Sections 1, 2, and 4 of this act take effect  
2   July 1, 2003.

--- END ---