

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561

Chapter 313, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature
2009 Regular Session

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS--DWELLINGS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2009
YEAS 38 NAYS 10

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 7, 2009
YEAS 95 NAYS 3

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved April 30, 2009, 11:42 a.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

Secretary

FILED

May 1, 2009

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Fairley, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in
2 dwelling units; adding a new section to chapter 19.27 RCW; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that carbon
6 monoxide poses a serious threat. According to national statistics from
7 the centers for disease control, carbon monoxide kills more than five
8 hundred people and accounts for an estimated twenty thousand emergency
9 department visits annually. Specifically, Washington state has
10 experienced the dire effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. In the
11 storms that struck Washington in December 2006, it was estimated that
12 over one thousand people in the state were seen at hospital emergency
13 rooms with symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, and eight people
14 reportedly died of carbon monoxide exposure. It is the intent of the
15 legislature to implement policies to prevent similar tragedies from
16 occurring in the future.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) By July 1, 2010, the building code council shall adopt rules
2 requiring that all buildings classified as residential occupancies, as
3 defined in the state building code in chapter 51-54 WAC, but excluding
4 owner-occupied single-family residences legally occupied before the
5 effective date of this act, be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms.

6 (2)(a) The building code council may phase in the carbon monoxide
7 alarm requirements on a schedule that it determines reasonable,
8 provided that the rules require that by January 1, 2011, all newly
9 constructed buildings classified as residential occupancies will be
10 equipped with carbon monoxide alarms, and all other buildings
11 classified as residential occupancies will be equipped with carbon
12 monoxide alarms by January 1, 2013.

13 (b) Owner-occupied single-family residences legally occupied before
14 the effective date of this act are exempt from the requirements of this
15 subsection (2). However, for any owner-occupied single-family
16 residence that is sold on or after the effective date of this act, the
17 seller must equip the residence with carbon monoxide alarms in
18 accordance with the requirements of the state building code before the
19 buyer or any other person may legally occupy the residence following
20 such sale.

21 (3) The building code council may exempt categories of buildings
22 classified as residential occupancies if it determines that requiring
23 carbon monoxide alarms are unnecessary to protect the health and
24 welfare of the occupants.

25 (4) The rules adopted by the building code council under this
26 section must (a) consider applicable nationally accepted standards and
27 (b) require that the maintenance of a carbon monoxide alarm in a
28 building where a tenancy exists, including the replacement of
29 batteries, is the responsibility of the tenant, who shall maintain the
30 alarm as specified by the manufacturer.

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2009.

Passed by the House April 7, 2009.

Approved by the Governor April 30, 2009.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 1, 2009.