
HOUSE BILL 1011

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Short, Takko, Springer, Buys, Kretz, Shea, Gregerson, and Condotta

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1 AN ACT Relating to assigning counties to two climate zones for
2 purposes of the state building code; amending RCW 19.27.031 and
3 19.27A.020; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (b) The International Residential Code, published by the
19 International Code Council, Inc.;

1 (2) The International Mechanical Code, published by the
2 International Code Council(~~(+,+)~~)_L Inc., except that the standards
3 for liquified petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Storage
4 and 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(~~(+,+)~~)_L 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
13 Code and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the
14 International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials:
15 PROVIDED, That any provisions of such code affecting sewers or fuel
16 gas piping are not 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
20 persons as provided in RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

21 (6) The state's climate zones for building purposes are
22 designated in RCW 19.27A.020(3) and may not be changed through the
23 adoption of a model code or rule.

24 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections
25 (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the first named code shall
26 govern 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
32 request of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the
33 enumerated 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
38 code.

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

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

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

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

13 (3) The Washington state energy code shall take into account
14 regional climatic conditions. (~~Climate zone 1 shall include all~~
15 ~~counties not included in climate zone 2. Climate zone 2~~) One climate
16 zone includes: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas,
17 Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln,
18 Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, ((and)) Walla
19 Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties. The other climate zone includes
20 all other counties not listed in this subsection (3). The assignment
21 of a county to a climate zone may not be changed by adoption of a
22 model code or rule. Nothing in this section prohibits the council
23 from adopting the same rules or standards for each climate zone.

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

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

30 (6)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the
31 Washington state energy code for residential structures shall preempt
32 the residential energy code of each city, town, and county in the
33 state of Washington.

34 (b) The state energy code for residential structures does not
35 preempt a city, town, or county's energy code for residential
36 structures which exceeds the requirements of the state energy code
37 and which was adopted by the city, town, or county prior to March 1,
38 1990. Such cities, towns, or counties may not subsequently amend
39 their energy code for residential structures to exceed the
40 requirements adopted prior to March 1, 1990.

1 (7) The state building code council shall consult with the
2 department of ((~~general administration~~)) enterprise services as
3 provided in RCW 34.05.310 prior to publication of proposed rules. The
4 director of the department of ((~~general administration~~)) enterprise
5 services shall recommend to the state building code council any
6 changes necessary to conform the proposed rules to the requirements
7 of this section.

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

11 (9) The definitions in RCW 19.27A.140 apply throughout this
12 section.

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