
SENATE BILL 6109

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Van De Wege and Rolfes

Prefiled 01/05/18. Read first time 01/08/18. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the International Wildland Urban Interface
2 Code; amending RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074; adding a new section to
3 chapter 43.30 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.031 and 2015 c 11 s 2 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)(a) The International Building Code, published by the
11 International Code Council, Inc.;

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

14 (2) The International Mechanical Code, published by the
15 International Code Council, Inc., except that the standards for
16 liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Storage and
17 Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54
18 (National Fuel Gas Code);

19 (3) The International Fire Code, published by the International
20 Code Council, Inc., including those standards of the National Fire
21 Protection Association specifically referenced in the International

1 Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this code,
2 participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from
3 carrying handheld candles;

4 (4) The International Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by
5 the International Code Council, Inc., except that the following
6 provisions are not adopted:

7 (a) Any requirement for the installation of automatic sprinkler
8 systems;

9 (b) Any authority to require a permit for candles and open flames
10 in assembly areas, tents, canopies, temporary membrane structures, or
11 residential tire storage;

12 (c) Any authority to require applicants to prepare fire
13 protection plans based on site-specific wildlife risk assessments;

14 (d) Any retroactive provision of the International Wildland Urban
15 Code that specifically applies to conditions in existence on the
16 effective date of this section;

17 (e) Any requirements related to the length of driveways, except
18 that driveways in excess of three hundred feet in length shall be
19 provided with turnarounds and driveways in excess of five hundred
20 feet in length and less than twenty feet in width shall be provided
21 with turnouts and turnarounds;

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

27 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The rules adopted by the council establishing
28 standards for making buildings and facilities accessible to and
29 usable by individuals with disabilities or elderly persons as
30 provided in RCW 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

31 ~~((+6))~~ (7) The state's climate zones for building purposes are
32 designated in RCW 19.27A.020(3) and may not be changed through the
33 adoption of a model code or rule.

34 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections
35 (1), (2), (3), ~~((and))~~ (4), and (5) of this section, the first named
36 code shall govern over those following.

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

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

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.074 and 1989 c 266 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The state building code council shall:

7 (a) Adopt and maintain the codes to which reference is made in
8 RCW 19.27.031 in a status which is consistent with the state's
9 interest as set forth in RCW 19.27.020. In maintaining these codes,
10 the council shall regularly review updated versions of the codes
11 referred to in RCW 19.27.031 and other pertinent information and
12 shall amend the codes as deemed appropriate by the council. In
13 adopting and maintaining the code enumerated in RCW 19.27.031(4), any
14 amendment to the code as adopted by the state building code council
15 may not result in a code that is more than the minimum performance
16 standards and requirements contained in the published model code;

17 (b) Approve or deny all county or city amendments to any code
18 referred to in RCW 19.27.031 to the degree the amendments apply to
19 single-family or multifamily residential buildings;

20 (c) As required by the legislature, develop and adopt any codes
21 relating to buildings; and

22 (d) Propose a budget for the operation of the state building code
23 council to be submitted to the office of financial management
24 pursuant to RCW 43.88.090.

25 (2) The state building code council may:

26 (a) Appoint technical advisory committees which may include
27 members of the council;

28 (b) Employ permanent and temporary staff and contract for
29 services; and

30 (c) Conduct research into matters relating to any code or codes
31 referred to in RCW 19.27.031 or any related matter.

32 All meetings of the state building code council shall be open to
33 the public under the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW. All
34 actions of the state building code council which adopt or amend any
35 code of statewide applicability shall be pursuant to the
36 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

37 All council decisions relating to the codes enumerated in RCW
38 19.27.031 shall require approval by at least a majority of the
39 members of the council.

1 All decisions to adopt or amend codes of statewide application
2 shall be made prior to December 1 of any year and shall not take
3 effect before the end of the regular legislative session in the next
4 year.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.30
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall establish a program of technical
8 assistance to counties, cities, and towns for the development of
9 findings of fact and maps establishing the wildland urban interface
10 areas of jurisdictions in accordance with the requirements of the
11 International Wildland Urban Interface Code as adopted by reference
12 in the state building code, RCW 19.27.031, and amended and maintained
13 by the state building code council.

14 (2) The department shall develop and administer a grant program,
15 subject to funding provided for this purpose, to provide direct
16 financial assistance to counties, cities, and towns for the
17 development of findings of fact and maps establishing wildland urban
18 interface areas. Applications for grant funds must be submitted by
19 counties, cities, and towns in accordance with regulations adopted by
20 the department. The department is authorized to make and administer
21 grants on the basis of applications, within appropriations authorized
22 by the legislature, to any county, city, or town for the purpose of
23 developing findings of fact and maps establishing wildland urban
24 interface areas.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect January 1, 2020.

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