
SENATE BILL 5690

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Talmadge and Moore.

Read first time February 14, 1991. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to water use efficiency; and amending RCW
2 19.27.170.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.170 and 1989 c 348 s 8 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The state building code council shall adopt rules under chapter
7 34.05 RCW that implement and incorporate the water conservation
8 performance standards in subsections (~~((3))~~) (4) and (~~((4))~~) (5) of
9 this section. These standards shall apply to all new construction and
10 all remodeling involving replacement of plumbing fixtures in all
11 residential, hotel, motel, school, industrial, commercial use, or other
12 occupancies determined by the council to use significant quantities of
13 water.

14 (2) The legislature recognizes that a phasing-in approach to these
15 new standards is appropriate. Therefore, standards in subsection

1 (~~(3)~~) (4) of this section shall take effect on July 1, 1990. The
2 standards in subsection (~~(4)~~) (5) of this section shall take effect
3 July 1, (~~1993~~) 1992.

4 (3) On and after July 1, 1992, no individual, public or private
5 corporation, firm, political subdivision, government agency, or other
6 legal entity for purposes of use in this state, shall distribute, sell,
7 offer for sale, import, install, or approve for installation any
8 plumbing fixtures unless such fixtures meet the standards as provided
9 for in this section.

10 (4) Standards for water use efficiency effective July 1, 1990.

11 (a) Standards for waterclosets. The guideline for maximum water
12 use allowed in gallons per flush (gpf) for any of the following
13 waterclosets is the following:

- 14 Tank-type toilets..... 3.5 gpf.
- 15 Flushometer-valve toilets..... 3.5 gpf.
- 16 Flushometer-tank toilets..... 3.5 gpf.
- 17 Electromechanical hydraulic toilets..... 3.5 gpf.

18 (b) Standard for urinals. The guideline for maximum water use
19 allowed for any urinal is 3.0 gallons per flush.

20 (c) Standard for showerheads. The guideline for maximum water use
21 allowed for any showerhead is 3.0 gallons per minute.

22 (d) Standard for faucets. The guideline for maximum water use
23 allowed in gallons per minute (gpm) for any of the following faucets
24 and replacement aerators is the following:

- 25 Bathroom faucets..... 3.0 gpm.
- 26 Lavatory faucets..... 3.0 gpm.
- 27 Kitchen faucets..... 3.0 gpm.
- 28 Replacement aerators..... 3.0 gpm.

29 (e) Except where designed and installed for use by the physically
30 handicapped, lavatory faucets located in restrooms intended for use by

1 the general public must be equipped with a metering valve designed to
2 close by spring or water pressure when left unattended (self-closing).

3 (f) No urinal or watercloset that operates on a continuous flow or
4 continuous flush basis shall be permitted.

5 (~~(4)~~) (5) Standards for water use efficiency effective July 1,
6 1993.

7 (a) Standards for waterclosets. The guideline for maximum water
8 use allowed in gallons per flush (gpf) for any of the following
9 waterclosets is the following:

- 10 Tank-type toilets..... 1.6 gpf.
- 11 Flushometer-tank toilets..... 1.6 gpf.
- 12 Electromechanical hydraulic toilets..... 1.6 gpf.

13 (b) Standards for urinals. The guideline for maximum water use
14 allowed for any urinal is 1.0 gallons per flush.

15 (c) Standards for showerheads. The guideline for maximum water use
16 allowed for any showerhead is 2.5 gallons per minute.

17 (d) Standards for faucets. The guideline for maximum water use
18 allowed in gallons per minute for any of the following faucets and
19 replacement aerators is the following:

- 20 Bathroom faucets..... 2.5 gpm.
- 21 Lavatory faucets..... 2.5 gpm.
- 22 Kitchen faucets..... 2.5 gpm.
- 23 Replacement aerators..... 2.5 gpm.

24 (e) Except where designed and installed for use by the physically
25 handicapped, lavatory faucets located in restrooms intended for use by
26 the general public must be equipped with a metering valve designed to
27 close by water pressure when unattended (self-closing).

28 (f) No urinal or watercloset that operates on a continuous flow or
29 continuous basis shall be permitted.

1 ~~((5) The building code council shall make an assessment regarding~~
2 ~~the low volume fixtures required under subsection (4) of this section.~~
3 ~~The assessment shall consider the availability of low volume fixtures~~
4 ~~which are technologically feasible, will operate effectively, and are~~
5 ~~economically justified. The council shall also assess the potential~~
6 ~~impact on the necessary flow or water required to insure sewerage or~~
7 ~~septic lines and treatment plants will effectively operate.~~

8 ~~The council shall submit a report to the chief clerk of the house~~
9 ~~of representatives and the secretary of the senate by October 30, 1992,~~
10 ~~setting forth its conclusions, and any recommendations for legislative~~
11 ~~action.))~~

12 (6) The building code council shall establish methods and
13 procedures for testing and identifying fixtures which meet the
14 standards established in this section. The council shall use the
15 testing standards designated as American national standards, written
16 under American national standards institute procedures or other widely
17 recognized national testing standards. The council shall either review
18 test results from independent testing laboratories which are submitted
19 by manufacturers of plumbing fixtures or accept data submitted to and
20 evaluated by the international association of plumbing and mechanical
21 officials. The council shall publish and widely distribute an up-to-
22 date list of fixtures that meet the standards of this section.

23 (7) The building code council shall adopt rules and regulations for
24 marking and labeling fixtures meeting the standards of this section.

25 (8) The provisions of this section shall not apply to fixtures
26 installed prior to the effective date of this section which are removed
27 and relocated to another room or area of the same building after the
28 effective date of this section, nor shall they apply to fixtures, as
29 determined by the council, which in order to perform a specialized
30 function, cannot meet the standards specified in this section.

1 (9) The water conservation performance standards shall supersede
2 all local government codes. After July 1, 1990, cities, towns, and
3 counties shall not amend the code revisions and standards established
4 under subsection (~~(3)~~) (4) or (~~(4)~~) (5) of this section.