
HOUSE BILL 1770

State of Washington

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2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Duerr, Ramel, Berry, Dolan, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Wylie, Berg, Davis, Goodman, Macri, Peterson, Slatter, Valdez, Pollet, Hackney, Kloba, and Frame; by request of Office of the Governor

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1 AN ACT Relating to strengthening energy codes; amending RCW
2 19.27A.160, 19.27A.015, and 19.27A.020; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In order to meet the statewide greenhouse
5 gas emissions limits in RCW 70A.45.020, the state must require
6 construction of increasingly low-emission energy efficient homes and
7 buildings and achieve construction of zero fossil-fuel greenhouse gas
8 emission homes and buildings by 2030. Top categories of clean energy
9 jobs in the buildings sector include: High-efficiency heating,
10 ventilation, and air conditioning; energy efficiency technologies;
11 and renewable heating and cooling. As the fastest growing clean
12 energy industries in our state, work in these areas also supports job
13 creation in other construction trades, which is a critical component
14 of a clean energy economic recovery strategy.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27A.160 and 2009 c 423 s 5 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,
18 residential and nonresidential construction (~~permitted under the~~
19 ~~2031 state energy code~~) must achieve (~~a seventy percent reduction~~

1 ~~in annual net energy consumption, using the adopted 2006 Washington~~
2 ~~state energy code as a baseline)) the following:~~

3 (a) A reduction of at least 70 percent in annual net energy
4 consumption under the residential and nonresidential energy codes
5 that become effective in 2031, using the adopted 2006 Washington
6 state energy code as a baseline; and

7 (b) New buildings must be net-zero ready, including a reduction
8 of at least 80 percent in annual net energy consumption using the
9 adopted 2006 Washington state energy code as a baseline and must
10 include wiring for photovoltaic panel installation under the
11 residential and nonresidential state energy codes that are adopted by
12 the council by 2034. The state building code council shall further
13 define and include net-zero ready measures in the code adoption
14 process.

15 (2) The council shall adopt state energy codes from 2013 through
16 2031 that incrementally move towards achieving the seventy percent
17 reduction in annual net energy consumption requirements as specified
18 in subsection (1) of this section. The council shall report its
19 progress by December 31, 2012, and every three years thereafter. If
20 the council determines that economic, technological, or process
21 factors would significantly impede adoption of or compliance with
22 this subsection, the council may defer the implementation of the
23 proposed energy code update and shall report its findings to the
24 legislature by December 31st of the year prior to the year in which
25 those codes would otherwise be enacted.

26 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27A.015 and 1990 c 2 s 2 are each amended to read
27 as follows:

28 ~~((Except as provided in RCW 19.27A.020(7), the Washington state~~
29 ~~energy code for residential buildings shall be the maximum and~~
30 ~~minimum energy code for residential buildings in each city, town, and~~
31 ~~county and shall be enforced by each city, town, and county no later~~
32 ~~than July 1, 1991.)) (1) Each city, town, and county must enforce the
33 Washington state energy code for residential buildings or adopt the
34 statewide residential reach code established pursuant to RCW
35 19.27A.020(6). Any local residential energy code other than the
36 Washington state energy code for residential buildings and the
37 statewide residential reach code is preempted. The reach code may not
38 exceed net-zero energy use.~~

1 (2) The Washington state energy code for nonresidential buildings
2 shall be the minimum energy code for nonresidential buildings
3 enforced by each city, town, and county.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 19.27A.020 and 2018 c 207 s 7 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The state building code council in the department of
7 enterprise services shall adopt rules to be known as the Washington
8 state energy code as part of the state building code.

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

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

16 (b) Require new buildings to meet a certain level of energy
17 efficiency, but allow flexibility in building design, construction,
18 and heating equipment efficiencies within that framework(~~(and~~

19 ~~(c) Allow space heating equipment efficiency to offset or~~
20 ~~substitute for building envelope thermal performance)).~~

21 (3) The Washington state energy code shall take into account
22 regional climatic conditions. One climate zone includes: Adams,
23 Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield,
24 Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille,
25 Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima
26 counties. The other climate zone includes all other counties not
27 listed in this subsection (3). The assignment of a county to a
28 climate zone may not be changed by adoption of a model code or rule.
29 Nothing in this section prohibits the council from adopting the same
30 rules or standards for each climate zone.

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

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

37 (6) (~~(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the~~
38 ~~Washington state energy code for residential structures shall preempt~~

1 ~~the residential energy code of each city, town, and county in the~~
2 ~~state of Washington.~~

3 ~~(b) The state energy code for residential structures does not~~
4 ~~preempt a city, town, or county's energy code for residential~~
5 ~~structures which exceeds the requirements of the state energy code~~
6 ~~and which was adopted by the city, town, or county prior to March 1,~~
7 ~~1990. Such cities, towns, or counties may not subsequently amend~~
8 ~~their energy code for residential structures to exceed the~~
9 ~~requirements adopted prior to March 1, 1990)) The state building code~~
10 ~~council must adopt by rule a statewide residential reach code for~~
11 ~~optional adoption and enforcement by any city, town, or county. The~~
12 ~~statewide residential reach code must achieve the reductions in~~
13 ~~energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions required in the 2031~~
14 ~~energy code for residential buildings under RCW 19.27A.160. The~~
15 ~~department of commerce shall develop a proposal covering the~~
16 ~~technical provisions of the reach code. The state building code~~
17 ~~council must adopt the statewide residential reach code as an~~
18 ~~appendix to the 2021 residential energy code to be effective by 2023.~~

19 (7) The state building code council shall consult with the
20 department of enterprise services as provided in RCW 34.05.310 prior
21 to publication of proposed rules. The director of the department of
22 enterprise services shall recommend to the state building code
23 council any changes necessary to conform the proposed rules to the
24 requirements of this section.

25 (8) ~~((The state building code council shall evaluate and consider~~
26 ~~adoption of the international energy conservation code in Washington~~
27 ~~state in place of the existing state energy code.~~

28 ~~(9))~~ The definitions in RCW 19.27A.140 apply throughout this
29 section.

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