
SENATE BILL 6120

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Van De Wege, Braun, and Short

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Wildland Urban Interface Code; amending
2 RCW 19.27.031, 19.27.074, and 19.27.560; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.031 and 2018 c 189 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

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

9 (1)(a) The International Building Code, published by the
10 International Code Council, Inc.;

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

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

18 (3) The International Fire Code, published by the International
19 Code Council, Inc., including those standards of the National Fire
20 Protection Association specifically referenced in the International
21 Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this code,

1 participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from
2 carrying handheld candles;

3 (4) (~~Portions~~) Only those portions of the International
4 Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code
5 Council Inc., as (~~set forth~~) specifically referenced in RCW
6 19.27.560;

7 (5) (~~Except as provided in RCW 19.27.170, the~~) The Uniform
8 Plumbing Code and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the
9 International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials:
10 PROVIDED, That any provisions of such code affecting sewers or fuel
11 gas piping are not adopted;

12 (6) The rules adopted by the council establishing standards for
13 making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by
14 individuals with disabilities or elderly persons as provided in RCW
15 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

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

19 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections
20 (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section, the first named code
21 shall govern over those following.

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

26 The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the
27 request of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the
28 enumerated codes.

29 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.074 and 2018 c 207 s 4 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) The state building code council shall:

32 (a) Adopt and maintain the codes to which reference is made in
33 RCW 19.27.031 in a status which is consistent with the state's
34 interest as set forth in RCW 19.27.020. In maintaining these codes,
35 the council shall regularly review updated versions of the codes
36 referred to in RCW 19.27.031 and other pertinent information and
37 shall amend the codes as deemed appropriate by the council, provided,
38 that Wildland Urban Interface Codes must be consistent with RCW
39 19.27.560;

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

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

6 (d) Approve a proposed budget for the operation of the state
7 building code council to be submitted by the department of enterprise
8 services to the office of financial management pursuant to RCW
9 43.88.090.

10 (2) The state building code council may:

11 (a) Appoint technical advisory committees which may include
12 members of the council;

13 (b) Approve contracts for services; and

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

16 (3) The department of enterprise services, with the advice and
17 input from the members of the building code council, shall:

18 (a) Employ permanent and temporary staff and contract for
19 services;

20 (b) Contract with an independent, third-party entity to perform a
21 Washington energy code baseline economic analysis and economic
22 analysis of code proposals; and

23 (c) Provide all administrative and information technology
24 services required for the building code council.

25 (4) Rule-making authority as authorized in this chapter resides
26 within the building code council.

27 (5)(a) All meetings of the state building code council shall be
28 open to the public under the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30
29 RCW. All actions of the state building code council which adopt or
30 amend any code of statewide applicability shall be pursuant to the
31 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

32 (b) All council decisions relating to the codes enumerated in RCW
33 19.27.031 shall require approval by at least a majority of the
34 members of the council.

35 (c) All decisions to adopt or amend codes of statewide
36 application shall be made prior to December 1 of any year and shall
37 not take effect before the end of the regular legislative session in
38 the next year.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 19.27.560 and 2018 c 189 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) In addition to the provisions of RCW 19.27.031, the state
4 building code shall, upon the completion of a statewide ((mapping of
5 ~~wildland urban interface areas)) map of areas at greatest risk from
6 wildland fire, consist of the following parts of the 2018
7 International Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the
8 International Code Council, Inc., which are hereby adopted by
9 reference:~~

10 (a) The following parts of ((~~section 504~~)) class 1 ignition-
11 resistant construction:

12 (i) (A) ((~~504.2~~)) Roof covering - Roofs shall have a roof assembly
13 that complies with class A rating when testing in accordance with
14 American society for testing materials E 108 or underwriters
15 laboratories 790. For roof coverings where the profile allows a space
16 between the roof covering and roof decking, the space at the eave
17 ends shall be fire stopped to preclude entry of flames or embers, or
18 have one layer of seventy-two pound mineral-surfaced, nonperforated
19 camp sheet complying with American society for testing materials D
20 3909 installed over the combustible decking.

21 (B) The roof covering on buildings or structures in existence
22 prior to the adoption of the wildland urban interface code under this
23 section that are replaced or have fifty percent or more replaced in a
24 twelve month period shall be replaced with a roof covering required
25 for new construction based on the type of ignition-resistant
26 construction specified in accordance with ((~~section 503 of~~)) the
27 International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

28 (C) The roof covering on any addition to a building or structure
29 shall be replaced with a roof covering required for new construction
30 based on the type of ignition-resistant construction specified in
31 accordance with ((~~section 503 of~~)) the International Wildland Urban
32 Interface Code.

33 (ii) ((~~504.5~~)) Exterior walls - Exterior walls of buildings or
34 structures shall be constructed with one of the following methods:

35 (A) Materials approved for not less than one hour fire-resistance
36 rated construction on the exterior side;

37 (B) Approved noncombustible materials;

38 (C) Heavy timber or log wall construction;

39 (D) Fire retardant-treated wood on the exterior side. The fire
40 retardant-treated wood shall be labeled for exterior use and meet the

1 requirements of (~~section 2303.2 of~~) the International Building
2 Code; or

3 (E) Ignition-resistant materials on the exterior side.

4 Such materials shall extend from the top of the foundation to the
5 underside of the roof sheathing.

6 (iii) (A) (~~504.7~~) Appendages and projections - Unenclosed
7 accessory structures attached to buildings with habitable spaces and
8 projections, such as decks, shall not be less than one hour fire-
9 resistance rated construction, heavy timber construction, or
10 constructed of one of the following:

11 (I) Approved noncombustible materials;

12 (II) Fire retardant-treated wood identified for exterior use and
13 meeting the requirements of (~~section 2303.2 of~~) the International
14 Building Code; or

15 (III) Ignition-resistant building materials in accordance with
16 (~~section 503.2 of~~) the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

17 (B) Subsection (1) (a) (iii) (A) of this section does not apply to
18 an unenclosed accessory structure attached to buildings with
19 habitable spaces and projections, such as decks, attached to the
20 first floor of a building if the structure is built with building
21 materials at least two inches nominal depth and the area below the
22 unenclosed accessory structure is screened with wire mesh screening
23 to prevent embers from coming in from underneath.

24 (b) (~~Section 403.2~~) Driveways - Driveways shall be provided
25 where any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the
26 building is located more than one hundred fifty feet from a fire
27 apparatus access road. Driveways in excess of three hundred feet in
28 length shall be provided with turnarounds and driveways in excess of
29 five hundred feet in length and less than twenty feet in width shall
30 be provided with turnouts and turnarounds. The county, city, or town
31 will define the requirements for a turnout or turnaround as required
32 in this subsection.

33 (2) All counties, cities, and towns may adopt the International
34 Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code
35 Council, Inc., or any portion thereof.

36 (3) In adopting and maintaining the code enumerated in
37 subsections (1) and (2) of this section, any amendment to the code as
38 adopted under subsections (1) and (2) of this section may not result
39 in an International Wildland Urban Interface Code that is more than

1 the minimum performance standards and requirements contained in the
2 published model code.

3 (4) All counties, cities, and towns may complete their own map of
4 areas at greatest risk from wildfire for use in applying the code
5 enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. Any map
6 adopted by counties, cities, and towns must utilize the same or
7 substantially similar criteria as the map required by subsection (1)
8 of this section.

9 (5) All counties, cities, and towns issuing commercial and
10 residential building permits for parcels in areas identified as high
11 risk and very high risk on the map required by subsection (1) of this
12 section or adopted according to subsection (4) of this section shall
13 apply the code enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
16 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
17 effect immediately.

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