

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 2228

C 4 L 26

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning scissor stair regulations in the state building code.

Sponsors: House Committee on Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Zahn, Duerr, Ramel, Peterson, Parshley, Lekanoff, Reed, Thomas, Gregerson, Ormsby, Hill and Bernbaum).

House Committee on Local Government
Senate Committee on Housing

Background:

The State Building Code Council (Council) is responsible for the adoption of the State Building Code (Code). The Code establishes the minimum requirements and standards for buildings and facilities constructed in the state. The Code consists of a series of model codes, such as the International Building Code and the International Residential Code, that are adopted by reference, and any amendments that the Council makes to the codes. The model codes are updated every three years. The Council must adopt amendments to the Code on a three-year cycle that follows the model code adoption cycle. Substantive amendments to the Code may generally only be made once during the update cycle.

Any person may petition the Council in writing to amend the Code. The Council may convene technical advisory groups (TAGs) to review petitions for amendments. Technical advisory groups may include one councilmember, but otherwise must consist of subject matter experts designated by the Council. A person can qualify as a subject matter expert through education, training, or experience that is sufficient for the person to be recognized as an expert on a subject, topic, or system. A person who wishes to be appointed to a TAG may submit an application to the Council during an application period. The Council must approve or deny an application within 30 days of the closure of the application period.

In order for a petition referred to a TAG to be taken up for consideration by the Council, it must receive the approval of a majority of the TAG.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary:

The Council must convene a TAG for the purpose of recommending amendments to the Code that would allow scissor stairs in occupancies of more than two dwelling units in which the occupants are primarily permanent. The TAG must consider public health, safety, welfare, and construction cost when making recommendations. The recommendations must be made to the Council in time for the Council to implement any necessary adoption or amendment of codes in the 2027 Code update.

Scissor stairs are interlocking stairways with separate exits that are separately enclosed and separated by fire-resistance rated assemblies.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 95 0

Senate 48 0

Effective: June 11, 2026