
HOUSE BILL 1254

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Duerr and Berg

Prefiled 01/10/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing the International Wildland Urban
2 Interface Code; amending RCW 19.27.560; and reenacting and amending
3 RCW 19.27.031.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.27.031 and 2024 c 170 s 1 and 2024 c 133 s 1 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

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

11 (a)(i) The International Building Code, published by the
12 International Code Council, Inc.;

13 (ii) The International Residential Code, published by the
14 International Code Council, Inc.;

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

20 (c) The International Fire Code, published by the International
21 Code Council, Inc., including those standards of the National Fire

1 Protection Association specifically referenced in the International
2 Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this code,
3 participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from
4 carrying handheld candles;

5 (d) (~~Only those portions of the~~) The International Wildland
6 Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code Council
7 Inc. (~~(, as specifically referenced in RCW 19.27.560(1), or the model~~
8 ~~International Wildland Urban Interface Code specifically referenced~~
9 ~~in RCW 19.27.560(2))~~);

10 (e) The Uniform Plumbing Code and Uniform Plumbing Code
11 Standards, published by the International Association of Plumbing and
12 Mechanical Officials: PROVIDED, That any provisions of such code
13 affecting sewers or fuel gas piping are not adopted;

14 (f) The rules adopted by the council establishing standards for
15 making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by
16 individuals with disabilities or elderly persons as provided in RCW
17 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

18 (g) The state's climate zones for building purposes are
19 designated in RCW 19.27A.020(~~(+3+))~~ (4) and may not be changed
20 through the adoption of a model code or rule.

21 (2) In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsection
22 (1) of this section, the first named code shall govern over those
23 following.

24 (3)(a) The model codes enumerated in this section shall be
25 adopted or amended by the council as provided in RCW 19.27.074 and
26 19.27.032 through 19.27.034 in a three-year state building code
27 adoption cycle. The state building code adoption cycle follows the
28 adoption cycle of the model codes. Substantive changes to the state
29 building code may only be adopted within the three-year cycle except
30 as provided in RCW 19.27.032.

31 (b) The council shall review the most recent editions of each of
32 the model codes enumerated in subsection (1) of this section and take
33 action on adoption no later than 30 months after the date of
34 publication of each such code. The "date of publication" is the date
35 of publication printed in each model code. If only a month and year
36 are shown, the date of publication for such code shall be the last
37 day of the month shown.

38 (4) The council may initiate and implement an interim code
39 adoption cycle for all Washington state building codes if a majority
40 of its voting membership determines one is needed to correct errors

1 and omissions, or eliminate obsolete, conflicting, redundant, or
2 unnecessary regulations as provided in RCW 19.27.032 through
3 19.27.034.

4 (5) Petitions for emergency statewide amendments to the building
5 code may be submitted, considered, and adopted at any time in
6 accordance with RCW 34.05.350 and 19.27.032 through 19.27.034.

7 (6) Off-cycle amendments to any of the Washington state building
8 codes may be initiated and implemented at any time if directed by the
9 legislature.

10 (7) The council shall solicit input from first responders to
11 ensure that firefighter safety issues are addressed during the code
12 adoption process.

13 (8) The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the
14 request of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the
15 enumerated codes.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.560 and 2024 c 133 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) (~~In addition to the provisions of RCW 19.27.031, the state~~
19 ~~building code shall, upon~~) Upon the completion of a statewide
20 wildfire hazard map and a base-level wildfire risk map for each
21 county of the state, per RCW 43.30.580, (~~consist of chapter 1 and~~
22 ~~the following~~) the technical provisions of the International
23 Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code
24 Council, Inc., (~~which are hereby adopted by reference:~~

25 ~~(a) The following parts of class 1 ignition-resistant~~
26 ~~construction:~~

27 ~~(i) (A) Roof covering - Roofs shall have a roof assembly that~~
28 ~~complies with class A rating when testing in accordance with American~~
29 ~~society for testing materials E 108 or underwriters laboratories 790.~~
30 ~~For roof coverings where the profile allows a space between the roof~~
31 ~~covering and roof decking, the space at the eave ends shall be fire~~
32 ~~stopped to preclude entry of flames or embers, or have one layer of~~
33 ~~seventy-two pound mineral-surfaced, nonperforated camp sheet~~
34 ~~complying with American society for testing materials D 3909~~
35 ~~installed over the combustible decking.~~

36 ~~(B) The roof covering on buildings or structures in existence~~
37 ~~prior to the adoption of the wildland urban interface code under this~~
38 ~~section that are replaced or have fifty percent or more replaced in a~~
39 ~~twelve month period shall be replaced with a roof covering required~~

1 ~~for new construction based on the type of ignition-resistant~~
2 ~~construction specified in accordance with the International Wildland~~
3 ~~Urban Interface Code.~~

4 ~~(C) The roof covering on any addition to a building or structure~~
5 ~~shall be replaced with a roof covering required for new construction~~
6 ~~based on the type of ignition-resistant construction specified in~~
7 ~~accordance with the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.~~

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

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

12 ~~(B) Approved noncombustible materials;~~

13 ~~(C) Heavy timber or log wall construction;~~

14 ~~(D) Fire retardant-treated wood on the exterior side. The fire~~
15 ~~retardant-treated wood shall be labeled for exterior use and meet the~~
16 ~~requirements of the International Building Code; or~~

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

18 ~~Such materials shall extend from the top of the foundation to the~~
19 ~~underside of the roof sheathing.~~

20 ~~(iii) (A) Appendages and projections - Unenclosed accessory~~
21 ~~structures attached to buildings with habitable spaces and~~
22 ~~projections, such as decks, shall not be less than one hour fire-~~
23 ~~resistance rated construction, heavy timber construction, or~~
24 ~~constructed of one of the following:~~

25 ~~(I) Approved noncombustible materials;~~

26 ~~(II) Fire retardant-treated wood identified for exterior use and~~
27 ~~meeting the requirements of the International Building Code; or~~

28 ~~(III) Ignition-resistant building materials in accordance with~~
29 ~~the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.~~

30 ~~(B) Subsection (1) (a) (iii) (A) of this section does not apply to~~
31 ~~an unenclosed accessory structure attached to buildings with~~
32 ~~habitable spaces and projections, such as decks, attached to the~~
33 ~~first floor of a building if the structure is built with building~~
34 ~~materials at least two inches nominal depth and the area below the~~
35 ~~unenclosed accessory structure is screened with wire mesh screening~~
36 ~~to prevent embers from coming in from underneath.~~

37 ~~(b) Driveways - Driveways shall be provided where any portion of~~
38 ~~an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located more~~
39 ~~than one hundred fifty feet from a fire apparatus access road.~~
40 ~~Driveways in excess of three hundred feet in length shall be provided~~

1 ~~with turnarounds and driveways in excess of five hundred feet in~~
2 ~~length and less than twenty feet in width shall be provided with~~
3 ~~turnouts and turnarounds. The county, city, or town will define the~~
4 ~~requirements for a turnout or turnaround as required in this~~
5 ~~subsection)) adopted pursuant to RCW 19.27.031, shall be implemented.~~

6 (2) All counties, cities, and towns may adopt the International
7 Wildland Urban Interface Code, published by the International Code
8 Council, Inc., in whole or any portion thereof.

9 (3) In adopting and maintaining the code enumerated in subsection
10 (1) of this section, any amendment to the code as adopted under
11 subsection (1) of this section may not result in an International
12 Wildland Urban Interface Code that is more than the minimum
13 performance standards and requirements contained in subsection (1) of
14 this section.

15 (4) All counties, cities, and towns may complete their own
16 wildfire hazard and base-level wildfire risk map for use in applying
17 the code enumerated in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
18 Counties, cities, and towns may continue to use locally adopted
19 wildfire risk maps until completion of a statewide wildfire hazard
20 map and base-level wildfire risk map for each county of the state per
21 RCW 43.30.580. Six months after the statewide wildfire hazard map and
22 base-level wildfire risk map is complete, any map adopted by
23 counties, cities, and towns must utilize the same or substantially
24 similar criteria as the map required by subsection (1) of this
25 section.

26 (5) All counties, cities, and towns issuing commercial and
27 residential building permits for parcels in areas identified as high
28 hazard and very high hazard on the map required by subsection (1) of
29 this section or adopted according to subsection (4) of this section
30 shall apply the code enumerated in subsections (1) or (2) of this
31 section.

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