
SENATE BILL 6597

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, B. Sheldon, Winsley and Wood

Read first time 01/22/98. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire suppression systems; creating a new
2 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the residents
5 of Washington should be safe from life and property loss due to fire.
6 Many of Washington's existing residential structures do not have
7 adequate fire prevention and suppression devices, including automatic
8 fire extinguishing systems. Residents of the state have suffered
9 significant life and property loss in fires occurring in buildings not
10 equipped with fire prevention and fire suppression systems. Most local
11 jurisdictions have not addressed this issue. The legislature further
12 finds that there are substantial financial and administrative burdens
13 associated with the installation of fire suppression and fire
14 prevention systems that cannot be borne solely by building owners
15 themselves.

16 (2) It is the intent of the legislature to commission a study group
17 to:

1 (a) Investigate the problems of insufficient fire prevention,
2 inadequate fire suppression, and residential buildings without
3 sprinklers in Washington state;

4 (b) Review the actions of other jurisdictions nation-wide to
5 address the issues of fire prevention and fire suppression; and

6 (c) Make consensus recommendations to the legislature and to the
7 governor regarding ways that the legislature, local jurisdictions, fire
8 protection services, and the private sector can work cooperatively to
9 reduce financial and administrative burdens to installation of fire
10 suppression and fire prevention systems in existing residential
11 buildings.

12 (3) The study group shall consist of: One legislator from each
13 major caucus of the senate and house of representatives, as appointed
14 by leaders of the caucuses. These legislative members shall appoint
15 other members to the study group who represent a broad spectrum of
16 interests related to fire safety in residential buildings. These
17 members shall include, but not be limited to representatives of
18 apartment associations; real estate management; building owners and
19 managers; real estate sales; rental associations; public housing; two
20 representatives from the public, one of whom represents renters; a
21 representative of local government; and public and private
22 representatives of the fire safety community. A representative of the
23 governor's office, the chair of the state building code council, and
24 the state fire marshal shall also be appointed to the study group. The
25 study group shall be cochaired by a legislator from the senate and a
26 legislator from the house of representatives.

27 (4) The office of state fire marshal shall provide staff and
28 administrative support for the study group.

29 (5) The study group shall deliver its consensus recommendations to
30 the governor and the legislature by January 11, 1999.

31 (6) This section expires July 1, 1999.

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