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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Fairley, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/09.

1       AN ACT Relating to the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in  
2 dwelling units; adding a new section to chapter 19.27 RCW; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that carbon  
6 monoxide poses a serious threat. According to national statistics from  
7 the centers for disease control, carbon monoxide kills more than five  
8 hundred people and accounts for an estimated twenty thousand emergency  
9 department visits annually. Specifically, Washington state has  
10 experienced the dire effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. In the  
11 storms that struck Washington in December 2006, it was estimated that  
12 over one thousand people in the state were seen at hospital emergency  
13 rooms with symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, and eight people  
14 reportedly died of carbon monoxide exposure. It is the intent of the  
15 legislature to implement policies to prevent similar tragedies from  
16 occurring in the future.

17       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1           (1) By July 1, 2010, the building code council shall adopt rules  
2 requiring that all buildings classified as residential occupancies, as  
3 defined in the state building code in chapter 51-54 WAC, be equipped  
4 with carbon monoxide alarms.

5           (2) The building code council may phase in the carbon monoxide  
6 alarm requirements on a schedule that it determines reasonable,  
7 provided that the rules require that by January 1, 2011, all newly  
8 constructed buildings classified as residential occupancies will be  
9 equipped with carbon monoxide alarms, and all other buildings  
10 classified as residential occupancies will be equipped with carbon  
11 monoxide alarms by January 1, 2013.

12           (3) The building code council may exempt categories of buildings  
13 classified as residential occupancies if it determines that requiring  
14 carbon monoxide alarms are unnecessary to protect the health and  
15 welfare of the occupants.

16           (4) The rules adopted by the building code council under this  
17 section must (a) consider applicable nationally accepted standards and  
18 (b) require that the maintenance of a carbon monoxide alarm in a  
19 building where a tenancy exists, including the replacement of  
20 batteries, is the responsibility of the tenant, who shall maintain the  
21 alarm as specified by the manufacturer.

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