

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561**

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 20, 2009  
YEAS 38 NAYS 10

---

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 7, 2009  
YEAS 95 NAYS 3

---

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**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, but excluding  
4 owner-occupied single-family residences legally occupied before the  
5 effective date of this act, be equipped with carbon monoxide alarms.

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

13 (b) Owner-occupied single-family residences legally occupied before  
14 the effective date of this act are exempt from the requirements of this  
15 subsection (2). However, for any owner-occupied single-family  
16 residence that is sold on or after the effective date of this act, the  
17 seller must equip the residence with carbon monoxide alarms in  
18 accordance with the requirements of the state building code before the  
19 buyer or any other person may legally occupy the residence following  
20 such sale.

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

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

--- END ---