
Local Government Committee

HB 1155

Brief Description: Prohibiting local governments and state agencies from mandating the installation of fire sprinkler systems in agricultural structures.

Sponsors: Representatives Orcutt, Rivers, Angel, Taylor, Johnson, Kretz, Haler, McCune, Short, Harris and Condotta.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibits local governments or state agencies from requiring the installation or use of fire sprinkler systems in agricultural structures.
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Hearing Date: 1/18/11

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

The state building code (SBC) establishes the minimum construction requirements for Washington. The SBC is comprised of various building, residential, fire and other model codes adopted by the Legislature. The SBC describes the powers and duties of fire code officials and building officials, and must be enforced by counties and cities. Subject to certain limits, counties and cities may amend the SBC as it applies within their jurisdiction.

The Washington State Building Code Council establishes the minimum building, mechanical, fire, plumbing, and energy code requirements necessary to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the state's residents, by reviewing, developing, and adopting the SBC.

The SBC defines "agricultural structure" to mean a structure designed and constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock, or other horticultural products. The definition specifies that agricultural structures may not be a place of human habitation or a place of employment where agricultural products are processed, nor may it be a place that is used by the public.

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

Summary of Bill:

The SBC is amended to expressly provide that nothing in its provisions authorizes a county, city, or state agency to require the installation or use of a fire sprinkler system in an agricultural structure. The voluntary installation and use of fire sprinkler systems in agricultural structures is permitted.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.