
SENATE BILL 6226

State of Washington **64th Legislature** **2016 Regular Session**

By Senators Warnick, Becker, Schoesler, Dammeier, Rivers, and Braun

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to adoption of the International Plumbing Code as
2 an alternative recognized building code and updating the related
3 state plumbing examination requirements; amending RCW 19.27.031 and
4 18.106.050; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the
7 International Plumbing Code has innovative and modern technical
8 methods, devices, and improvements that are nationally recognized
9 standards which reduce construction and maintenance costs, improve
10 building efficiencies, and benefit the safety and welfare of building
11 owners, occupants, and the general public. The legislature further
12 finds that the International Plumbing Code is a beneficial and
13 appropriate companion code to the correlated and coordinated suite of
14 building codes that Washington has adopted. The legislature finds
15 that using the coordinated set of international codes allows cost
16 savings in building construction and redevelopment, thus helping
17 ensure affordable rents, mortgages, and leases. Therefore, the
18 legislature recognizes the International Plumbing Code as published
19 by the International Code Council, Inc., for use in the state as an
20 alternative to the current plumbing code.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.031 and 2015 c 11 s 2 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, there shall be in
4 effect in all counties and cities the state building code which shall
5 consist of the following codes which are hereby adopted by reference:

6 (1)(a) The International Building Code, published by the
7 International Code Council, Inc.;

8 (b) The International Residential Code, published by the
9 International Code Council, Inc.;

10 (2) The International Mechanical Code, published by the
11 International Code Council, Inc., except that the standards for
12 liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Storage and
13 Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54
14 (National Fuel Gas Code);

15 (3) The International Fire Code, published by the International
16 Code Council, Inc., including those standards of the National Fire
17 Protection Association specifically referenced in the International
18 Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this code,
19 participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from
20 carrying hand-held candles;

21 (4)(a) Except as provided in RCW 19.27.170, the Uniform Plumbing
22 Code and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the
23 International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials:
24 PROVIDED, That any provisions of such code affecting sewers or fuel
25 gas piping are not adopted; and

26 (b) As an alternative code, and not in addition to the code in
27 (a) of this subsection, the International Plumbing Code, published by
28 the International Code Council, Inc., with the exception of sections
29 104.4, 108.7, and 109 and Appendix A of such Code, which are not
30 adopted;

31 (5) The rules adopted by the council establishing standards for
32 making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by
33 individuals with disabilities or elderly persons as provided in RCW
34 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

35 (6) The state's climate zones for building purposes are
36 designated in RCW 19.27A.020(3) and may not be changed through the
37 adoption of a model code or rule.

38 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections
39 (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section, the first named code shall
40 govern over those following.

1 The codes enumerated in this section shall be adopted by the
2 council as provided in RCW 19.27.074. The council shall solicit input
3 from first responders to ensure that firefighter safety issues are
4 addressed during the code adoption process.

5 The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the
6 request of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the
7 enumerated codes.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 18.106.050 and 2013 c 23 s 18 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The department, with the advice of the advisory board, shall
11 prepare a written examination to be administered to applicants for
12 certificates of competency for journey level plumber and specialty
13 plumber. The examination shall be constructed to determine:

14 (a) Whether the applicant possesses varied general knowledge of
15 the technical information and practical procedures that are
16 identified with the trade of journey level plumber or specialty
17 plumber; and

18 (b) Whether the applicant is familiar with the applicable
19 plumbing codes, including the International Plumbing Code as defined
20 in RCW 19.27.031(4)(b), and the administrative rules of the
21 department pertaining to plumbing and plumbers.

22 (2) The department, with the consent of the advisory board, may
23 enter into a contract with a nationally recognized testing agency to
24 develop, administer, and score any examinations required by this
25 chapter. All applicants shall, before taking an examination, pay the
26 required examination fee. The department shall set the examination
27 fee by contract with a nationally recognized testing agency. The fee
28 shall cover but not exceed the costs of preparing and administering
29 the examination and the materials necessary to conduct the practical
30 elements of the examination. The department shall approve training
31 courses and set the fees for training courses for examinations
32 provided by this chapter.

33 (3) An examination to determine the competency of an applicant
34 for a domestic water pumping system specialty plumbing certificate as
35 defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) must be established by the
36 department in consultation with the advisory board by December 31,
37 2006. The department may include an examination for appropriate
38 electrical safety and technical requirements as required by RCW
39 19.28.191 with the examination required by this section. The

1 department, in consultation with the advisory board, may accept the
2 certification by a professional or trade association or other
3 acceptable entity as meeting the examination requirement of this
4 section. Individuals who can provide evidence to the department prior
5 to January 1, 2007, that they have been employed in the pump and
6 irrigation business as defined by RCW 18.106.010(10)(c) for not less
7 than four thousand hours in the most recent four calendar years shall
8 be issued the appropriate certificate by the department upon
9 receiving such documentation and applicable fees. The department
10 shall establish a single document for those who have received both
11 the plumbing specialty certification defined by this subsection and
12 have also met the certification requirements for a pump and
13 irrigation or domestic pump specialty electrician, showing that the
14 individual has received both certifications.

15 (4) The department shall certify the results of the examinations
16 provided by this chapter, and shall notify the applicant in writing
17 whether he or she has passed or failed. Any applicant who has failed
18 the examination may retake the examination, upon the terms and after
19 a period of time that the director shall set by rule. The director
20 may not limit the number of times that a person may take the
21 examination.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The state building code council may not
23 use any funding or resources to review or modify the 2015 version of
24 the International Plumbing Code, published by the International Code
25 Council, Inc.

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