

SSB 6473 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Local Government

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that over the last
4 ten years, Washington has seen an increasing shift from homeowners to
5 renters in major metropolitan areas and smaller cities and towns.
6 Many of these rentals are in low density, single-family homes, or low
7 density multifamily buildings. As more renters enter the market,
8 rental costs have increased by over thirty percent, forcing people to
9 look for more affordable places to live. With new rental units coming
10 on the market in former single-family homes, many do not meet current
11 fire safety standards. In Washington, four out of five fire deaths
12 occur in residential dwelling units. Smoke alarms have become such a
13 common feature in homes that it is easy to take them for granted, but
14 properly installed and maintained smoke alarms save lives. Despite
15 requirements for landlords to equip rental dwelling units with smoke
16 detection devices, and tenants to maintain smoke detectors in
17 accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, tragedies still
18 occur.

19 Therefore, the legislature directs the Washington director of
20 fire protection to investigate ways to prevent fire deaths in rental
21 dwellings, educate landlords and tenants regarding their
22 responsibilities, evaluate insurance certification requirements or
23 changes to the building code, and other possible programs or funding
24 that would improve installation and maintenance of smoke detectors in
25 rental apartments and single-family homes.

26 The director of fire protection must form a task force of
27 stakeholders including but not limited to landlords of residential
28 units, tenants, local governments, firefighters, representatives from
29 home builders and construction trades, the insurance industry, and a
30 nonprofit that provides free smoke detectors and installation. The
31 task force shall choose its chair from among its membership. The
32 director of fire protection must convene the initial meeting of the

1 task force. The task force must allow for public comments. The task
2 force shall update the appropriate committees of the legislature by
3 December 1, 2018. The task force shall report its findings and
4 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
5 legislature by December 1, 2019."

6 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Eliminates the provision that requires the Washington
Director of Fire Protection to develop possible criminal penalties as
part of its study on ways to prevent fire deaths.

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