

SENATE BILL REPORT

2SHB 1444

As of May 1, 2019

Title: An act relating to appliance efficiency standards.

Brief Description: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Fitzgibbon, Tarleton and Ormsby; by request of Department of Commerce).

Brief History: Passed House: 3/05/19, 57-41.

Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Technology: 3/14/19.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes federally preempted efficiency and testing standards.
- Amends the state efficiency and testing standards for certain state-covered products.
- Establishes new minimum efficiency and testing standards for certain products.
- Authorizes the Department of Commerce to adopt rules that incorporate federal efficiency standards for federally covered products and to adopt by rule a more recent version of any standard or test method in order to maintain consistency with other comparable standards in other states.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Staff: Angela Kleis (786-7469)

Background: Appliance Efficiency and Testing Standards. Federal law generally allows states to establish minimum efficiency and testing standards for products that are not covered by federal appliance efficiency regulations. Once a federal efficiency standard is established for a given appliance, it will preempt existing state standards unless the state is granted a waiver of federal preemption.

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.

Federal efficiency and testing standards have been established for the following products: automatic commercial ice makers, commercial refrigeration and freezing equipment, pool heaters, and incandescent reflector lamps.

Washington law sets minimum efficiency and testing standards for several categories of appliances sold, offered for sale, or installed in the state. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) may recommend updates to the efficiency and testing standards for certain products and recommend establishing state standards for additional non-federally covered appliances.

Voluntary Consensus Standards. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a not-for-profit organization that develops and publishes voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems for a variety of industry sectors. These standards become mandatory under certain circumstances, such as being referenced by the government.

Summary of Bill: Federally Preempted Efficiency and Testing Standards. The standards for automatic commercial ice cube machines, commercial refrigerators and freezers, pool heaters, state-regulated incandescent reflector lamps, and wine chillers have been federally preempted and are repealed.

Existing Minimum Efficiency and Testing Standards. State standards are amended including portable electric spas must meet ANSI standards beginning January 1, 2020, and state standards for hot water dispensers, bottle-type water dispensers, and point-of-use water dispensers expire on January 1, 2020.

New Minimum Efficiency and Testing Standards. State standards are established for certain products such as computers and computer monitors, urinals and water closets, and residential electric storage water heaters. The majority of products covered under the new state standards, if manufactured on or after January 1, 2021, may not be sold or offered for sale, lease, or rent in the state unless the efficiency of the new product meets or exceeds the state's efficiency standards.

Department of Commerce. Commerce may adopt rules that incorporate, by reference, federal efficiency standards for federally covered products only as the standards existed on January 1, 2018. In addition, Commerce may adopt by rule a more recent version of any standard or test method established in this act in order to maintain consistency with other comparable standards in other states. Commerce must regularly submit a report to the Legislature on federal standards that preempt the state appliance efficiency and testing standards.

Water Conservation Performance Standards. Certain water conservation performance standards are repealed.

Appropriation: The bill contains a null and void clause requiring specific funding be provided in an omnibus appropriation act.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: These efficiency and testing standards provide energy and water savings to our state, in particular to rental property. We are interested in the water savings that are under the bill because water uses a significant amount of energy. Surveys show consumer satisfaction with efficient appliances and phasing out inefficient appliances will help consumers save money. We are working with stakeholders on some concerns and will bring amendments to the committee for consideration.

OTHER: The efficiency and test standards are consistent with what other states are doing.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Bruce Wishart, Sierra Club and Center for Environmental Law and Policy; Glenn Blackmon, State Energy Office, Commerce; Amy Wheelless, NW Energy Coalition; John McClellan, Engineering and Development Director, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District; Peter Godlewski, Association of Washington Business; Elyette Weinstein, Washington League of Women Voters; Charlie Brown, National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

OTHER: Kevin Messner, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.