

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5553

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Authorizing standards for temporary emergency shelters for local adoption.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovelett, Robinson, Conway, Nguyen, Nobles, Wellman and Wilson, C..

**Senate Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs**  
**House Committee on Local Government**

**Background:** Temporary Shelters. Temporary tent or building encampments provide shelter for homeless individuals and may rotate between various host properties, with some employing managers or a security team, and imposing a code of conduct for residents. Religious organizations may host or offer shelter or housing to persons experiencing homelessness on property the organizations own or control, with limitations on the ability of local governments to regulate such shelters. Local governments may regulate conditions necessary to protect public health and safety, so long as they do not substantially burden the decisions or actions of the religious organization. Some local governments have enacted regulations that outline additional rules and procedures related to temporary homeless encampments.

State Building Code. The State Building Code (SBC) establishes minimum performance standards and requirements for construction and construction materials in the state, consistent with accepted standards of engineering, fire, and life safety. The SBC comprises a number of model codes and standards, developed and published by international and national organizations, which are adopted by reference in the State Building Code Act. Model codes and standards adopted in the act include the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, and the Uniform Plumbing Code Standards.

The State Building Code Council (SBCC) is responsible for adopting, amending, and maintaining the SBC. The SBCC must regularly review updated versions of the model codes and adopt a process for reviewing proposed statewide and local amendments.

**Summary:** By July 1, 2026, the SBCC must adopt, by rule, standards for temporary

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emergency shelters and make them available for local adoption.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate 48 0

House 82 14

**Effective:** July 23, 2023