

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6231

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As of January 22, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to prohibiting the use of hostile architecture elements for publicly accessible buildings or real property.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting the use of hostile architecture elements for publicly accessible buildings or real property.

**Sponsors:** Senators Lovelett, Kuderer, Nguyen and Nobles.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs: 1/23/24.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Prohibits cities, towns, code cities, and counties from installing or constructing hostile architecture elements to restrict the use of any public space by people experiencing homelessness.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAND USE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

**Staff:** Maggie Douglas (786-7279)

**Background:** A city, town, or county may enact ordinances regulating the use of land and zoning certain development and activities within its jurisdiction. Such regulations generally include:

- the location, height, construction and size of buildings for residence, industry, trade, and other purposes;
- the size of yards, open spaces, lots, and tracts;
- the density of population;
- the set-back of buildings; and
- the subdivision and development of land.

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

A city, town, or county may review public and private projects for their compliance with local design standards, including a project's aesthetic, architectural, or urban design quality and its compatibility with nearby development.

**Summary of Bill:** Cities, towns, and counties may not install or construct any hostile architecture elements designed to restrict the use of public space by people experiencing homelessness.

Hostile architecture means any building or structure designed or intended to prevent people experiencing homelessness from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level. Hostile architecture does not include design elements intended to prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading or to prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

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