
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1042

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives Walen, Ryu, Barkis, Simmons, Duerr, Goodman, Bateman, Reed, Ramel, Peterson, Pollet, Doglio, Macri, Reeves, Mena, Tharinger, Wylie, Gregerson, Springer, Bergquist, Thai, Kloba, Santos, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 01/23/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of additional housing units in
2 existing buildings; adding a new section to chapter 35A.21 RCW; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.21
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Code cities must adopt or amend by ordinance, and
8 incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations,
9 and other official controls the requirements of subsection (2) of
10 this section by July 1, 2024.

11 (b) Beginning July 1, 2024, the requirements of subsection (2) of
12 this section apply and take effect in any code city that has not
13 adopted or amended ordinances, regulations, or other official
14 controls as required under this section and supersede, preempt, and
15 invalidate any conflicting local development regulations.

16 (2) Through ordinances, development regulations, zoning
17 regulations, or other official controls as required under subsection
18 (1) of this section, code cities may not:

19 (a) Impose a restriction on housing unit density that prevents
20 the addition of housing units constructed entirely within an existing
21 building envelope in a building located within a zone that permits

1 multifamily housing, provided that generally applicable health and
2 safety standards, including but not limited to building code
3 standards and fire and life safety standards, can be met within the
4 building;

5 (b) Impose parking requirements on the addition of dwelling units
6 or living units added within an existing building;

7 (c) Impose permitting requirements on the use of an existing
8 building for residential purposes beyond those requirements generally
9 applicable to all residential development within the building's zone;

10 (d) Impose design standard requirements, including setbacks, lot
11 coverage, and floor area ratio requirements, on the use of an
12 existing building for residential purposes beyond those requirements
13 generally applicable to all residential development within the
14 building's zone;

15 (e) Impose exterior design or architectural requirements on the
16 residential use of an existing building beyond those necessary for
17 health and safety of the use of the interior of the building, unless
18 the building is listed on a local historic register through a local
19 preservation ordinance, the Washington heritage register as described
20 in RCW 27.34.220, or the national register of historic places as
21 defined in the national historic preservation act of 1966 (Title 1,
22 Sec. 101, Public Law 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 470) as now
23 or hereafter amended;

24 (f) Prohibit the addition of housing units in any specific part
25 of a building, unless the addition of the units would violate
26 applicable building codes or health and safety standards;

27 (g) Require a building used for residential purposes to meet the
28 current energy code solely because of the addition of new dwelling
29 units within the building;

30 (h) Deny a building permit application for the addition of
31 housing units to an existing building due to the nonconformity of the
32 existing structure including, but not limited to, nonconformity
33 regarding parking, height, setbacks, elevator size for gurney
34 transport, or modulation, unless the legislative authority of the
35 code city makes written findings that the nonconformity is causing a
36 significant detriment to the surrounding area; or

37 (i) Require a transportation concurrency study under RCW
38 36.70A.070 or an environmental study under chapter 43.21C RCW based
39 on the addition of residential units within an existing building.

1 (3) Nothing in this section requires a code city to approve a
2 building permit application for the addition of housing units
3 constructed entirely within an existing building envelope in a
4 building located within a zone that permits multifamily housing in
5 cases in which the building cannot satisfy life safety standards.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1)(a) Cities must adopt or amend by ordinance, and incorporate
9 into their development regulations, zoning regulations, and other
10 official controls the requirements of subsection (2) of this section
11 by July 1, 2024.

12 (b) Beginning July 1, 2024, the requirements of subsection (2) of
13 this section apply and take effect in any city that has not adopted
14 or amended ordinances, regulations, or other official controls as
15 required under this section and supersede, preempt, and invalidate
16 any conflicting local development regulations.

17 (2) Through ordinances, development regulations, zoning
18 regulations, or other official controls as required under subsection
19 (1) of this section, cities may not:

20 (a) Impose a restriction on housing unit density that prevents
21 the addition of housing units constructed entirely within an existing
22 building envelope in a building located within a zone that permits
23 multifamily housing, provided that generally applicable health and
24 safety standards, including but not limited to building code
25 standards and fire and life safety standards, can be met within the
26 building;

27 (b) Impose parking requirements on the addition of dwelling units
28 or living units added within an existing building;

29 (c) Impose permitting requirements on the use of an existing
30 building for residential purposes beyond those requirements generally
31 applicable to all residential development within the building's zone;

32 (d) Impose design standard requirements, including setbacks, lot
33 coverage, and floor area ratio requirements, on the use of an
34 existing building for residential purposes beyond those requirements
35 generally applicable to all residential development within the
36 building's zone;

37 (e) Impose exterior design or architectural requirements on the
38 residential use of an existing building beyond those necessary for
39 health and safety of the use of the interior of the building, unless

1 the building is listed on a local historic register through a local
2 preservation ordinance, the Washington heritage register as described
3 in RCW 27.34.220, or the national register of historic places as
4 defined in the national historic preservation act of 1966 (Title 1,
5 Sec. 101, Public Law 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 470) as now
6 or hereafter amended;

7 (f) Prohibit the addition of housing units in any specific part
8 of a building, unless the addition of the units would violate
9 applicable building codes or health and safety standards;

10 (g) Require a building used for residential purposes to meet the
11 current energy code solely because of the addition of new dwelling
12 units within the building;

13 (h) Deny a building permit application for the addition of
14 housing units to an existing building due to the nonconformity of an
15 existing structure including, but not limited to, nonconformity
16 regarding parking, height, setbacks, elevator size for gurney
17 transport, or modulation, unless the legislative authority of the
18 city makes written findings that the nonconformity is causing a
19 significant detriment to the surrounding area; or

20 (i) Require a transportation concurrency study under RCW
21 36.70A.070 or an environmental study under chapter 43.21C RCW based
22 on the addition of residential units within an existing building.

23 (3) Nothing in this section requires a city to approve a building
24 permit application for the addition of housing units constructed
25 entirely within an existing building envelope in a building located
26 within a zone that permits multifamily housing in cases in which the
27 building cannot satisfy life safety standards.

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