S-0333.1

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**SENATE BILL 5156**

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**State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Salomon, Bateman, Liias, Nobles, Riccelli, Shewmake, and Stanford

AN ACT Relating to elevator standards in smaller apartment buildings; and amending RCW 19.27.042.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 19.27.042 and 2023 c 47 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Effective January 1, 1992, the legislative authorities of cities and counties may adopt an ordinance or resolution to exempt from state building code requirements buildings whose character of use or occupancy has been changed in order to provide housing for indigent persons. The ordinance or resolution allowing the exemption shall include the following conditions:

(a) The exemption is limited to existing buildings located in this state;

(b) Any code deficiencies to be exempted pose no threat to human life, health, or safety;

(c) The building or buildings exempted under this section are owned or administered by a public agency or nonprofit corporation; and

(d) The exemption is authorized for no more than five years on any given building. An exemption for a building may be renewed if the requirements of this section are met for each renewal.

(2) By January 1, 1992, the state building code council shall adopt, by rule, guidelines for cities and counties exempting buildings under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) By July 1, 2026, the state building code council shall adopt, by rule, standards for temporary emergency shelters and make them available for local adoption.

(4) By March 31, 2026, the state building code council shall adopt, by rule, standards for cities and counties to allow all passenger and freight elevators to meet the most current version of global safety and related standards or, in the alternative, the current north American standards, and standards for cities and counties to allow passenger elevators no larger than those that accommodate a wheelchair for apartment buildings with at most six stories and at most 24 units in total.

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