
SENATE BILL 5156

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Salomon, Bateman, Lias, Nobles, Riccelli, Shewmake, and Stanford

Prefiled 01/07/25. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Housing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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