
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6244

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senate Environment, Water & Energy (originally sponsored by Senators Fraser, Rockefeller, Marr, Ranker, Pridemore, Kohl-Welles, Shin, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to defining a green home and an energy efficient
2 home; adding a new section to chapter 19.27 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state building code council shall:

6 (a) Review local and nationally recognized green building and
7 energy efficiency programs, standards, and codes currently in use or
8 being developed for use by 2012 that: (i) Establish criteria for
9 energy efficiency, indoor air quality, environmental responsibility,
10 and resource efficiency, including a life cycle assessment of building
11 products; (ii) provides for varying levels of certified green homes;
12 and (iii) establishes energy efficiency levels;

13 (b) Review local or national green building and energy efficiency
14 programs, standards, and codes establishing national accreditation or
15 certification criteria for third-party inspection agencies and firms
16 conducting plan review and inspection services as a method to verify
17 compliance with the green building or energy efficiency program,
18 standard, or code;

1 (c) Evaluate the feasibility of creating a residential energy code
2 appendix that is consistent with the state energy code adopted under
3 chapter 19.27A RCW and RCW 19.27A.015 for local jurisdictions to adopt
4 by reference; and

5 (d) Identify and evaluate the impacts to local jurisdictions
6 required to implement this act.

7 (2)(a) The state building code council shall conduct the study
8 required under subsection (1) of this section in collaboration with
9 interested stakeholders including representatives of the department of
10 commerce, the Washington State University extension energy office, the
11 Washington association of realtors, the Washington association of
12 building officials, the building industry association of Washington,
13 local master builder association green programs, the appraiser
14 coalition of Washington, and the American institute of architects,
15 Washington council.

16 (b) The state building code council shall provide a report of its
17 findings to the legislature by December 1, 2011. The report must
18 include recommendations for the expected percent of energy efficiency
19 gains that may be achieved above national model energy codes; provide
20 recommendations to facilitate implementation by local jurisdictions of
21 the definitions for energy efficient home and green home;
22 recommendations for consideration of the embodied energy consumption in
23 differing types of construction materials; and identify impacts to the
24 housing market.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) By December 1, 2012, the state building code council shall
28 adopt rules, in conformity with chapter 34.05 RCW, to define: (a)
29 Green home; and (b) energy efficient home for: (i) A group R-3 single-
30 family dwelling unit; and (ii) a duplex residential dwelling unit or a
31 townhouse residential dwelling unit constructed under the provisions of
32 the international residential code or group R-2 apartment houses with
33 residential dwelling units, as defined in section 310 of the 2009
34 international building code. The rules must be developed in
35 consideration of the information and recommendations developed from the
36 review of local and national energy efficient and green home criteria

1 as required under section 1 of this act and in collaboration with
2 interested stakeholders identified in section 1(2)(a) of this act.

3 (2) The state building code council must:

4 (a) Review the rules every three years coinciding with the reviews
5 and updates to the Washington state energy code as required in chapter
6 423, Laws of 2009. The review of the definitions of green home and
7 energy efficient home must be included as an element of the Washington
8 state energy code progress report as required in chapter 423, Laws of
9 2009;

10 (b) Review the definitions of green home and energy efficient home
11 in 2030. The definitions developed under subsection (1) of this
12 section expire July 1, 2031, unless extended by the legislature; and

13 (c) Provide energy efficient home compliance methods that are
14 consistent with the mandatory sections of the Washington state energy
15 code, including a method to show compliance using the prescriptive, the
16 component performance, or the systems analysis approaches, and
17 prescribe labels for an energy efficient home that are consistent with
18 energy efficiency labeling required by the energy code.

19 (3) The state building code council, after considering the
20 feasibility of creating a residential energy code appendix, may publish
21 an appendix of the requirements for an energy efficient home for each
22 revised edition of the Washington state energy code.

23 (4) A local building department or a third-party inspector approved
24 by a local building department may provide plan review and inspections
25 for energy efficient homes.

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