

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Each year many bills are introduced in the California State Legislature regarding a variety of issues. Some of these bills address issues that relate to the design or construction of buildings in California, and some deal specifically with the California Building Standards Commission. Following is a status update of some of the bills of interest to the commission, which it is monitoring in the final year of the 2009-2010 legislative session:

AB 1539 (Hagman)

Subject: Building standards: residential buildings
Status: Dead

This bill would have expressed legislative intent to enact legislation regarding building standards regarding the size of gas pipes relative to water heaters in residences.

AB 1693 (Ma)

Subject: Building standards: code adoption cycle
Status: In Senate Committee on Rules

This bill would modify the building code adoption cycle and extend it from 12 to 18 months.

AB 2001 (Harkey)

Subject: Building standards: State Department of Public Health: regulations
Status: In Assembly Committee on Appropriations

This bill would transfer the responsibilities of the Department of Public Health to adopt regulations relating to building standards to the California Building Standards Commission.

AB 2373 (Hall)

Subject: Building standards: plans and specifications
Status: Dead

Existing law prohibits an enforcement agency, as a result of construction inspection, from imposing a new or modified building standard different from those specified in the plans and specifications approved during plan checking functions for which a building permit is issued, except as prescribed. This bill would have made technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions, as introduced.

AB 2472 (Huffman)

Subject: Building standards: pilot program for green innovation building permits
Status: Dead

This bill would have, notwithstanding existing law, authorized the County of Marin and another, unspecified city, county, or city and county to adopt a pilot program for green innovation building permits in order to promote and facilitate innovation and research regarding environmentally sustainable building materials, methods, and designs not yet considered or addressed in the state's building codes. The bill would also have imposed specified duties on a local jurisdiction that adopted a pilot program, including the duty to issue no more than 10 permits per year for a period of 5 years following the adoption of a pilot program. The bill would have prohibited, after this 5-year period, the local jurisdiction from issuing new permits under the pilot program.

SB 183 (Lowenthal)

Subject: Residential building safety
Status: In Senate unfinished business for concurrence in Assembly amendments

This bill would require that carbon monoxide devices be installed in existing dwelling units intended for human occupancy, as provided. Also, this bill would require that carbon monoxide devices be tested and certified, pursuant to requirements set forth in either the American National Standards Institute Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. or by a nationally recognized testing laboratory listed in the directory of approved testing laboratories established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. In addition, this bill would require that the State Fire Marshal develop certification and decertification processes to approve and list carbon monoxide devices and to disapprove and de-list previously approved devices.

SB 408 (Padilla)

Subject: California Environmental Quality Act: LEED exemption
Status: Dead

This bill would have exempted from the California Environmental Quality Act any project that had been certified at the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum level or higher, pursuant to the standards and certifications adopted by the United States Green Building Council.