

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB538

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Bagby

3. **Committee:** Passed both Houses.

4. **Title:** Uniform Statewide Building Code; violations; fines.

5. **Summary:** Increases from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the minimum amount and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the maximum amount that any person, firm, or corporation shall be fined when convicted of a third or subsequent offense of violating the provisions of the Building Code committed within 10 years of another such offense after having been at least twice previously convicted of such an offense. The bill also adds penalties for similar violations committed by owners of a blighted multifamily property.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that the Department of Housing and Community Development can absorb any costs that may result from this bill as part of its normal workload with regard to administration of the statewide building code.

The bill changes the parameters at which an action is considered a violation of the Code, as well as the amount of certain civil penalties and the length of confinement in jail. The bill also adds confinement and civil penalty requirements for violations by owners of certain multifamily properties, which are to be deemed a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, with abatement period requirements. In certain cases, violations are punishable by confinement in jail for not more than five days and a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000, either or both. The impact of this bill on the potential number of violations is indeterminate.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Housing and Community Development; local and regional jails; courts; localities.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.