
HOUSE BILL 2847

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Buys and Blake

1 AN ACT Relating to the state building code act and recognizing
2 nationally recognized standards for modern technical methods,
3 devices, and improvements; amending RCW 19.27.020; and creating a new
4 section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that providing
7 flexibility in building construction methods and their approval can
8 result in efficient, resilient, and sustainable buildings, help local
9 communities achieve their goals of increasing affordable housing, and
10 ease code administration and enforcement, all of which benefits the
11 safety and welfare of building owners, occupants, and the general
12 public. Providing the option for citizens to benefit from the
13 material and labor efficiencies provided by the approval of modern
14 technical methods, devices, improvements, and innovations approved in
15 accordance with the international organization for standardization
16 are in line with the governor's results Washington goal of improving
17 nonelectrical energy efficiency of building and industrial processes
18 to reduce greenhouse gas.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 19.27.020 and 1985 c 360 s 6 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

1 The purpose of this chapter is to promote the health, safety and
2 welfare of the occupants or users of buildings and structures and the
3 general public by the provision of building codes throughout the
4 state. Accordingly, this chapter is designed to effectuate the
5 following purposes, objectives, and standards:

6 (1) To require minimum performance standards and requirements for
7 construction and construction materials, consistent with accepted
8 standards of engineering, fire and life safety.

9 (2) To require standards and requirements in terms of performance
10 and nationally accepted standards.

11 (3) To permit the use of modern technical methods, devices and
12 improvements.

13 (4) To eliminate restrictive, obsolete, conflicting, duplicating
14 and unnecessary regulations and requirements which could
15 unnecessarily increase construction costs or retard the use of new
16 materials and methods of installation or provide unwarranted
17 preferential treatment to types or classes of materials or products
18 or methods of construction.

19 (5) To provide for standards and specifications for making
20 buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by (~~physically~~
21 ~~disabled~~) persons with physical disabilities.

22 (6) To consolidate within each authorized enforcement
23 jurisdiction, the administration and enforcement of building codes.

24 (7) To foster innovation, consistent with this section, a
25 material, product, method of construction, design, or system that has
26 been evaluated and approved through the issuance of an evaluation
27 report or product listing by an ISO/IEC 17065-accredited conformity
28 assessment body is considered a valid evaluation report or product
29 listing compliant with nationally recognized consensus standards
30 subject to the scope of the report or listing as issued by the
31 accredited conformity assessment body, and is subject to final
32 acceptance and approval by the code official. Where not approved by
33 the code official, the code official shall respond in writing,
34 stating the reasons why the evaluation report or listing report was
35 not approved based on objective findings of fact.

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