
SENATE BILL 5744

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Chase and Prentice

Read first time 02/09/11. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the training of code enforcement officials; and
2 adding new sections to chapter 49.04 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Statewide training for code officials is
5 an essential element in the health and vitality of the state's
6 construction industry. The recent downturn in the economy has resulted
7 in staff reductions in many local code enforcement offices. With the
8 expected retirement of other senior code officials, there will be a
9 substantial need for training of new code officials as well as
10 continuing training for existing officials. As the economy of the
11 state of Washington improves it is imperative to have well-trained
12 building inspectors throughout our communities in order to assure
13 timely and consistent inspections so that our construction economy can
14 recover at the most expeditious rate.

15 (2) Because of these issues, the state of Washington approved the
16 creation of the code officials apprenticeship program. Local
17 jurisdictions are less able to consistently pay for and send staff to
18 training in central locations without compromising service levels. The

1 legislature finds that support for technical training and the code
2 officials apprenticeship and training program will provide:

3 (a) Consistent training for code officials for all jurisdictions;

4 (b) Greater uniformity of enforcement of building codes;

5 (c) Education on the implementation of the new energy and green
6 construction codes;

7 (d) Equal access for all jurisdictions to training essential to the
8 efficient and effective discharge of the regulatory function;

9 (e) A reduction of the employment cost burden of local
10 jurisdictions; and

11 (f) Leverage, when possible, of training dollars by taking
12 advantage of the economy of scale presented by a central, organized
13 training curriculum using economies of scale and potential grant funds
14 to supplement code official training.

15 (3) It is the intent of this act to assure that our construction
16 industry and local communities have assurance that code officials have
17 access to current training on the most recent code updates.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is imposed a fee of four dollars on
19 each building permit issued by a county or a city. The building permit
20 must be the same type of permit on which a fee may be imposed under RCW
21 19.27.085(3). Quarterly, each county and city shall remit moneys
22 collected under this section to the state treasury; however, no
23 remittance is required until a minimum of fifty dollars has accumulated
24 pursuant to this subsection.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Revenue collected under section 2 of this
26 act must be appropriated to the department for distribution to the
27 sponsor of an apprenticeship program for building officials for the
28 following purposes:

29 (1) Expenses related to establishment and operation of a code
30 official apprenticeship program;

31 (2) Administrative expenses of the joint apprenticeship training
32 committee for the code official apprenticeship program; and

33 (3) Expenses related to training programs for code officials
34 provided by public or private entities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The code officials apprenticeship and
2 training account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from
3 section 2 of this act must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the
4 account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the
5 account may be used as provided in section 3 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each
7 added to chapter 49.04 RCW.

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