
SENATE BILL 5383

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, Palumbo, Nguyen, Short, Van De Wege, Wilson, C., and Wilson, L.

Read first time 01/18/19. Referred to Committee on Housing Stability & Affordability.

1 AN ACT Relating to tiny houses; amending RCW 58.17.040,
2 35.21.684, 43.22.335, and 19.27.031; adding a new section to chapter
3 35.21 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Tiny houses have become a trend across the
6 nation to address the shortage of affordable housing. As tiny houses
7 become more acceptable, the legislature finds that it is important to
8 create space in the code for the regulation of tiny house siting.
9 Individual cities and counties may allow tiny houses with wheels to
10 be collected together as tiny house villages using the binding site
11 plan method articulated in chapter 58.17 RCW.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 58.17.040 and 2004 c 239 s 1 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

15 (1) Cemeteries and other burial plots while used for that
16 purpose;

17 (2) Divisions of land into lots or tracts each of which is one-
18 one hundred twenty-eighth of a section of land or larger, or five
19 acres or larger if the land is not capable of description as a
20 fraction of a section of land, unless the governing authority of the

1 city, town, or county in which the land is situated shall have
2 adopted a subdivision ordinance requiring plat approval of such
3 divisions: PROVIDED, That for purposes of computing the size of any
4 lot under this item which borders on a street or road, the lot size
5 shall be expanded to include that area which would be bounded by the
6 center line of the road or street and the side lot lines of the lot
7 running perpendicular to such center line;

8 (3) Divisions made by testamentary provisions, or the laws of
9 descent;

10 (4) Divisions of land into lots or tracts classified for
11 industrial or commercial use when the city, town, or county has
12 approved a binding site plan for the use of the land in accordance
13 with local regulations;

14 (5) A division for the purpose of lease when no residential
15 structure other than mobile homes, tiny houses or tiny houses with
16 wheels, or travel trailers are permitted to be placed upon the land
17 when the city, town, or county has approved a binding site plan for
18 the use of the land in accordance with local regulations;

19 (6) A division made for the purpose of alteration by adjusting
20 boundary lines, between platted or unplatted lots or both, which does
21 not create any additional lot, tract, parcel, site, or division nor
22 create any lot, tract, parcel, site, or division which contains
23 insufficient area and dimension to meet minimum requirements for
24 width and area for a building site;

25 (7) Divisions of land into lots or tracts if: (a) Such division
26 is the result of subjecting a portion of a parcel or tract of land to
27 either chapter 64.32 or 64.34 RCW subsequent to the recording of a
28 binding site plan for all such land; (b) the improvements constructed
29 or to be constructed thereon are required by the provisions of the
30 binding site plan to be included in one or more condominiums or owned
31 by an association or other legal entity in which the owners of units
32 therein or their owners' associations have a membership or other
33 legal or beneficial interest; (c) a city, town, or county has
34 approved the binding site plan for all such land; (d) such approved
35 binding site plan is recorded in the county or counties in which such
36 land is located; and (e) the binding site plan contains thereon the
37 following statement: "All development and use of the land described
38 herein shall be in accordance with this binding site plan, as it may
39 be amended with the approval of the city, town, or county having
40 jurisdiction over the development of such land, and in accordance

1 with such other governmental permits, approvals, regulations,
2 requirements, and restrictions that may be imposed upon such land and
3 the development and use thereof. Upon completion, the improvements on
4 the land shall be included in one or more condominiums or owned by an
5 association or other legal entity in which the owners of units
6 therein or their owners' associations have a membership or other
7 legal or beneficial interest. This binding site plan shall be binding
8 upon all now or hereafter having any interest in the land described
9 herein." The binding site plan may, but need not, depict or describe
10 the boundaries of the lots or tracts resulting from subjecting a
11 portion of the land to either chapter 64.32 or 64.34 RCW. A site plan
12 shall be deemed to have been approved if the site plan was approved
13 by a city, town, or county: (i) In connection with the final approval
14 of a subdivision plat or planned unit development with respect to all
15 of such land; or (ii) in connection with the issuance of building
16 permits or final certificates of occupancy with respect to all of
17 such land; or (iii) if not approved pursuant to (i) and (ii) of this
18 subsection (7)(e), then pursuant to such other procedures as such
19 city, town, or county may have established for the approval of a
20 binding site plan;

21 (8) A division for the purpose of leasing land for facilities
22 providing personal wireless services while used for that purpose.
23 "Personal wireless services" means any federally licensed personal
24 wireless service. "Facilities" means unstaffed facilities that are
25 used for the transmission or reception, or both, of wireless
26 communication services including, but not necessarily limited to,
27 antenna arrays, transmission cables, equipment shelters, and support
28 structures; and

29 (9) A division of land into lots or tracts of less than three
30 acres that is recorded in accordance with chapter 58.09 RCW and is
31 used or to be used for the purpose of establishing a site for
32 construction and operation of consumer-owned or investor-owned
33 electric utility facilities. For purposes of this subsection,
34 "electric utility facilities" means unstaffed facilities, except for
35 the presence of security personnel, that are used for or in
36 connection with or to facilitate the transmission, distribution,
37 sale, or furnishing of electricity including, but not limited to,
38 electric power substations. This subsection does not exempt a
39 division of land from the zoning and permitting laws and regulations
40 of cities, towns, counties, and municipal corporations. Furthermore,

1 this subsection only applies to electric utility facilities that will
2 be placed into service to meet the electrical needs of a utility's
3 existing and new customers. New customers are defined as electric
4 service locations not already in existence as of the date that
5 electric utility facilities subject to the provisions of this
6 subsection are planned and constructed.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.21.684 and 2009 c 79 s 1 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) A city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the
10 effect, directly or indirectly, of discriminating against consumers'
11 choices in the placement or use of a home in such a manner that is
12 not equally applicable to all homes. Homes built to 42 U.S.C. Sec.
13 5401-5403 standards (as amended in 2000) must be regulated for the
14 purposes of siting in the same manner as site built homes, factory
15 built homes, or homes built to any other state construction or local
16 design standard. However, except as provided in subsection (2) of
17 this section, any city or town may require that:

18 (a) A manufactured home be a new manufactured home;

19 (b) The manufactured home be set upon a permanent foundation, as
20 specified by the manufacturer, and that the space from the bottom of
21 the home to the ground be enclosed by concrete or an approved
22 concrete product which can be either load bearing or decorative;

23 (c) The manufactured home comply with all local design standards
24 applicable to all other homes within the neighborhood in which the
25 manufactured home is to be located;

26 (d) The home is thermally equivalent to the state energy code;
27 and

28 (e) The manufactured home otherwise meets all other requirements
29 for a designated manufactured home as defined in RCW 35.63.160.

30 A city with a population of one hundred thirty-five thousand or
31 more may choose to designate its building official as the person
32 responsible for issuing all permits, including department of labor
33 and industries permits issued under chapter 43.22 RCW in accordance
34 with an interlocal agreement under chapter 39.34 RCW, for
35 alterations, remodeling, or expansion of manufactured housing located
36 within the city limits under this section.

37 (2) A city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the
38 effect, directly or indirectly, of restricting the location of
39 manufactured/mobile homes in manufactured/mobile home communities

1 that were legally in existence before June 12, 2008, based
2 exclusively on the age or dimensions of the manufactured/mobile home.
3 This does not preclude a city or town from restricting the location
4 of a manufactured/mobile home in manufactured/mobile home communities
5 for any other reason including, but not limited to, failure to comply
6 with fire, safety, or other local ordinances or state laws related to
7 manufactured/mobile homes.

8 (3) Except as provided under subsection (4) of this section, a
9 city or town may not adopt an ordinance that has the effect, directly
10 or indirectly, of preventing the entry or requiring the removal of a
11 recreational vehicle or tiny house with wheels used as a primary
12 residence in manufactured/mobile home communities.

13 (4) Subsection (3) of this section does not apply to any local
14 ordinance or state law that:

15 (a) Imposes fire, safety, or other regulations related to
16 recreational vehicles;

17 (b) Requires utility hookups in manufactured/mobile home
18 communities to meet state or federal building code standards for
19 manufactured/mobile home communities; or

20 (c) Includes both of the following provisions:

21 (i) A recreational vehicle or tiny house with wheels must contain
22 at least one internal toilet and at least one internal shower; and

23 (ii) If the requirement in (c)(i) of this subsection is not met,
24 a manufactured/mobile home community must provide toilets and
25 showers.

26 (5) For the purposes of this section, "manufactured/mobile home
27 community" has the same meaning as in RCW 59.20.030.

28 (6) This section does not override any legally recorded covenants
29 or deed restrictions of record.

30 (7) This section does not affect the authority granted under
31 chapter 43.22 RCW.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.22.335 and 2016 c 167 s 3 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
35 this section apply throughout RCW 43.22.340 through 43.22.434,
36 43.22.442, and 43.22.495.

37 (1) "Conversion vending units" means a motor vehicle or
38 recreational vehicle that has been converted or built for the purpose
39 of being used for commercial sales at temporary locations. The units

1 must be less than eight feet six inches wide in the set-up position
2 and the inside working area must be less than forty feet in length.

3 (2) "Indigent" means a person receiving an annual income, after
4 taxes, of one hundred twenty-five percent or less of the current
5 federally established poverty level.

6 (3) "Manufactured home" means a single-family dwelling required
7 to be built in accordance with regulations adopted under the national
8 manufactured housing construction and safety standards act of 1974
9 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.).

10 (4) "Medical unit" means a self-propelled unit used to provide
11 medical examinations, treatments, and medical and dental services or
12 procedures, not including emergency response vehicles.

13 (5) "Mobile home" means a factory-built dwelling built before
14 June 15, 1976, to standards other than the national manufactured
15 housing construction and safety standards act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401
16 et seq.), and acceptable under applicable state codes in effect at
17 the time of construction or introduction of the home into this state.

18 (6) "Park trailer" means a park trailer as defined in the
19 American national standards institute A119.5 standard for park
20 trailers.

21 (7) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular-type unit primarily
22 designed for recreational camping or travel use that has its own
23 motive power or is mounted on or towed by another vehicle. The units
24 include travel trailers, fifth-wheel trailers, folding camping
25 trailers, truck campers, and motor homes.

26 (8) "Tiny house" means a dwelling to be used as permanent housing
27 with permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and
28 sanitation built in accordance with the 2018 International Resident
29 Code Appendix Q.

30 (9) "Tiny house with wheels" means a dwelling to be used as
31 permanent housing with permanent provisions for living, sleeping,
32 eating, cooking, and sanitation that meets the certification
33 requirements of ANSI 119.2, 119.5, or that is self-certified under
34 RCW 43.22.355.

35 **Sec. 5.** RCW 19.27.031 and 2018 c 189 s 1 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, there shall be in
38 effect in all counties and cities the state building code which shall
39 consist of the following codes which are hereby adopted by reference:

1 (1) (a) The International Building Code, published by the
2 International Code Council, Inc.;

3 (b) The International Residential Code, published by the
4 International Code Council, Inc. including Appendix Q of the 2018
5 International Residential Code;

6 (2) The International Mechanical Code, published by the
7 International Code Council, Inc., except that the standards for
8 liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be NFPA 58 (Storage and
9 Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54
10 (National Fuel Gas Code);

11 (3) The International Fire Code, published by the International
12 Code Council, Inc., including those standards of the National Fire
13 Protection Association specifically referenced in the International
14 Fire Code: PROVIDED, That, notwithstanding any wording in this code,
15 participants in religious ceremonies shall not be precluded from
16 carrying handheld candles;

17 (4) Portions of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code,
18 published by the International Code Council Inc., as set forth in RCW
19 19.27.560;

20 (5) Except as provided in RCW 19.27.170, the Uniform Plumbing
21 Code and Uniform Plumbing Code Standards, published by the
22 International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials:
23 PROVIDED, That any provisions of such code affecting sewers or fuel
24 gas piping are not adopted;

25 (6) The rules adopted by the council establishing standards for
26 making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by
27 individuals with disabilities or elderly persons as provided in RCW
28 70.92.100 through 70.92.160; and

29 (7) The state's climate zones for building purposes are
30 designated in RCW 19.27A.020(3) and may not be changed through the
31 adoption of a model code or rule.

32 In case of conflict among the codes enumerated in subsections
33 (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section, the first named code
34 shall govern over those following.

35 The codes enumerated in this section shall be adopted by the
36 council as provided in RCW 19.27.074. The council shall solicit input
37 from first responders to ensure that firefighter safety issues are
38 addressed during the code adoption process.

1 The council may issue opinions relating to the codes at the
2 request of a local official charged with the duty to enforce the
3 enumerated codes.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) A city or town may adopt an ordinance for the regulation of
7 the creation of tiny house communities.

8 (2) For the purposes of this section, "tiny house communities"
9 means real property rented or held out for rent to others for the
10 placement of tiny houses with wheels, tiny houses as defined in RCW
11 43.22.335, and park model trailer's as defined in ANSI A119.5 or RCW
12 46.04.622 utilizing the binding site plan process in RCW 58.17.035.

13 (3) The owner of the land upon which the community is built shall
14 make reasonable accommodation for utility hookups for the provision
15 of water, power, and sewerage services and comply with all other
16 duties in chapter 59.20 RCW.

17 (4) Tenants of tiny house communities shall be entitled to all
18 rights and subject to all duties and penalties required under chapter
19 59.20 RCW.

--- END ---